バジリスク
Basilisk 甲賀忍法帖 4

原作 山田風太郎
漫画 せがわまさき

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講談社

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Basilisk 4

徳川将軍家の世継ぎ問題に巻き込まれ、十人対十人で忍法殺戦合戦をして生き残りを懸けることになった甲賀、そして伊賀。引き裂かれた甲賀弦之介と伊賀の朧の思いは通じぬまま、凄惨な闘いが進み、双方の多くが冥土へと旅立った。生者はともに4名ずつ。ひとりの死が今まで以上にその意味を増してゆく――。山田風太郎の大人気『忍法帖』シリーズの記念すべき第1作めが、卓越した技量の持ち主、せがわまさきによって漫画化された、驚愕の第4巻!!

GENESIS

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Translated by: Kyouou
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Special Thanks : miyagice

バジリスク
甲賀忍法帖
4

甲賀組十人衆

甲賀弾正
甲賀弦之介
地虫十兵衛
風待将監
霞刑部
鵜殿丈助
如月左衛門
室賀豹馬
陽炎
お胡夷

伊賀組十人衆

お幻
朧
夜叉丸
小豆蝋斎
薬師寺天膳
雨夜陣五郎
筑摩小四郎
簑念鬼
蛍火
朱絹

バジリスク
甲賀忍法帖 Basilisk
第二十一殺「二十」
原作 山田風太郎 漫画 せがわまさき
講談社文庫「甲賀忍法帖」より

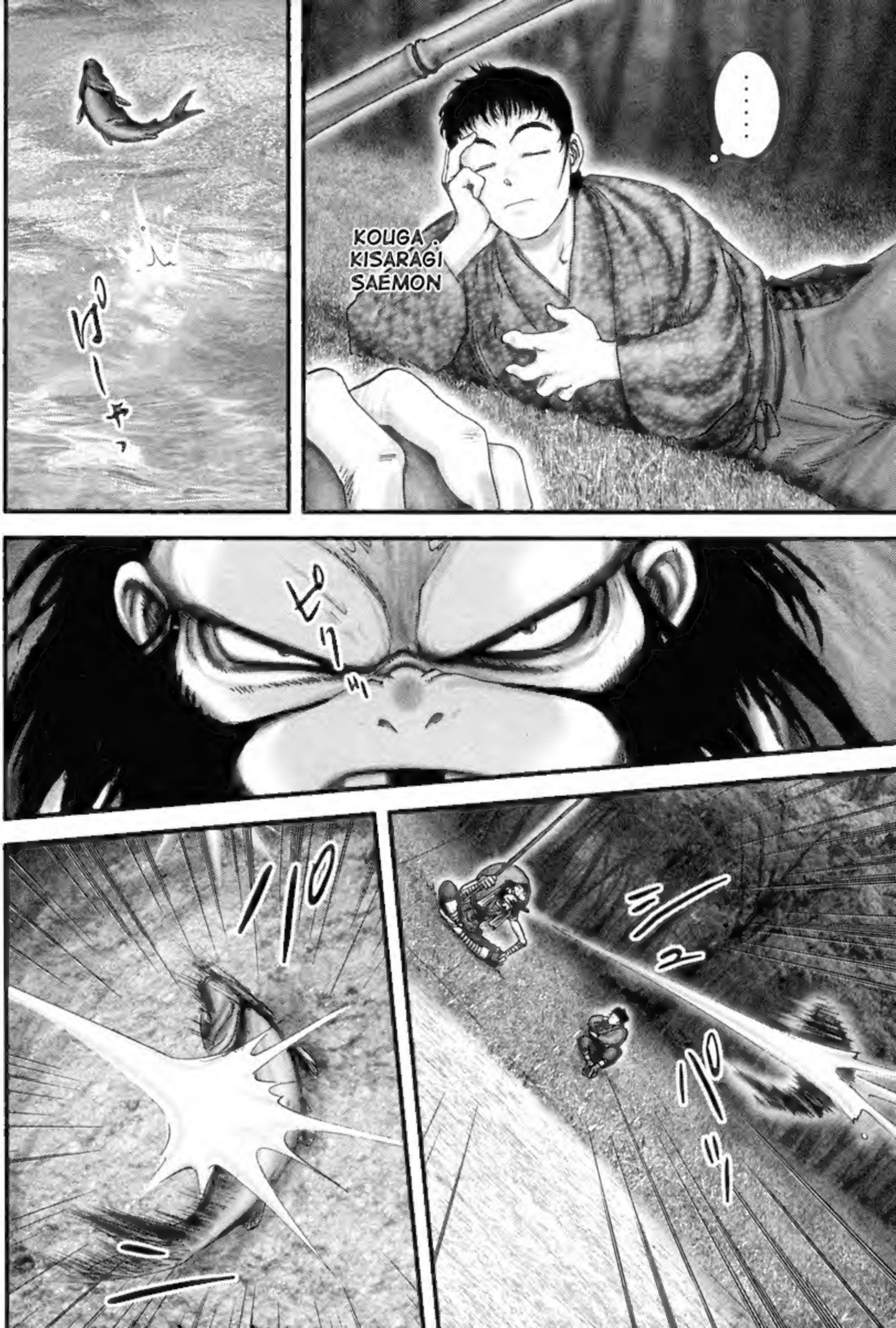
第二十一殺「二十」…特別番外編
第二十二殺「四対四」
第二十三殺「四対四(その二)」
第二十四殺「三対四」
第二十五殺「三対三」
第二十六殺「三対三(その二)」

Basilisk 4

あらすじ

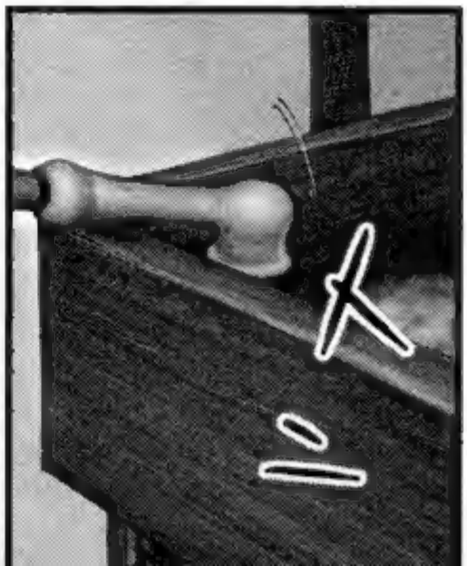
天下人・徳川家康の秘命により、三代将軍の座をかけて殺し合う運命となった甲賀・伊賀の精鋭忍者各十人。争忍は壮絶を極め、死した忍者はすでに半数を超えた。最強の瞳術を持つ甲賀弦之介と、全ての忍法を無効化する瞳を持つ伊賀の朧。闘いの要たる二人の瞳は秘薬により封じられ、特に朧は弦之介に討たれたいと強く願うようになっていた。陸路で駿府を目指す甲賀組を海路で追う伊賀組。同じ船に単身潜入した甲賀・霞刑部は伊賀の薬師寺天膳と雨夜陣五郎を次々に葬り去るが、不可解な復活を遂げた天膳に殺される。さかい橋に晒しものにされた刑部の骸。忍法秘争の惨たる現実、死した仲間たち、想いを寄せる敵の姫君。胸中揺らす弦之介は、争忍以前の半年前に、思いを巡らせていた。

HALF A YEAR BACK IN TIME
KOUGA MANJI VALLEY
.....
KOUGA . KAZAMACHI SHOUGEN

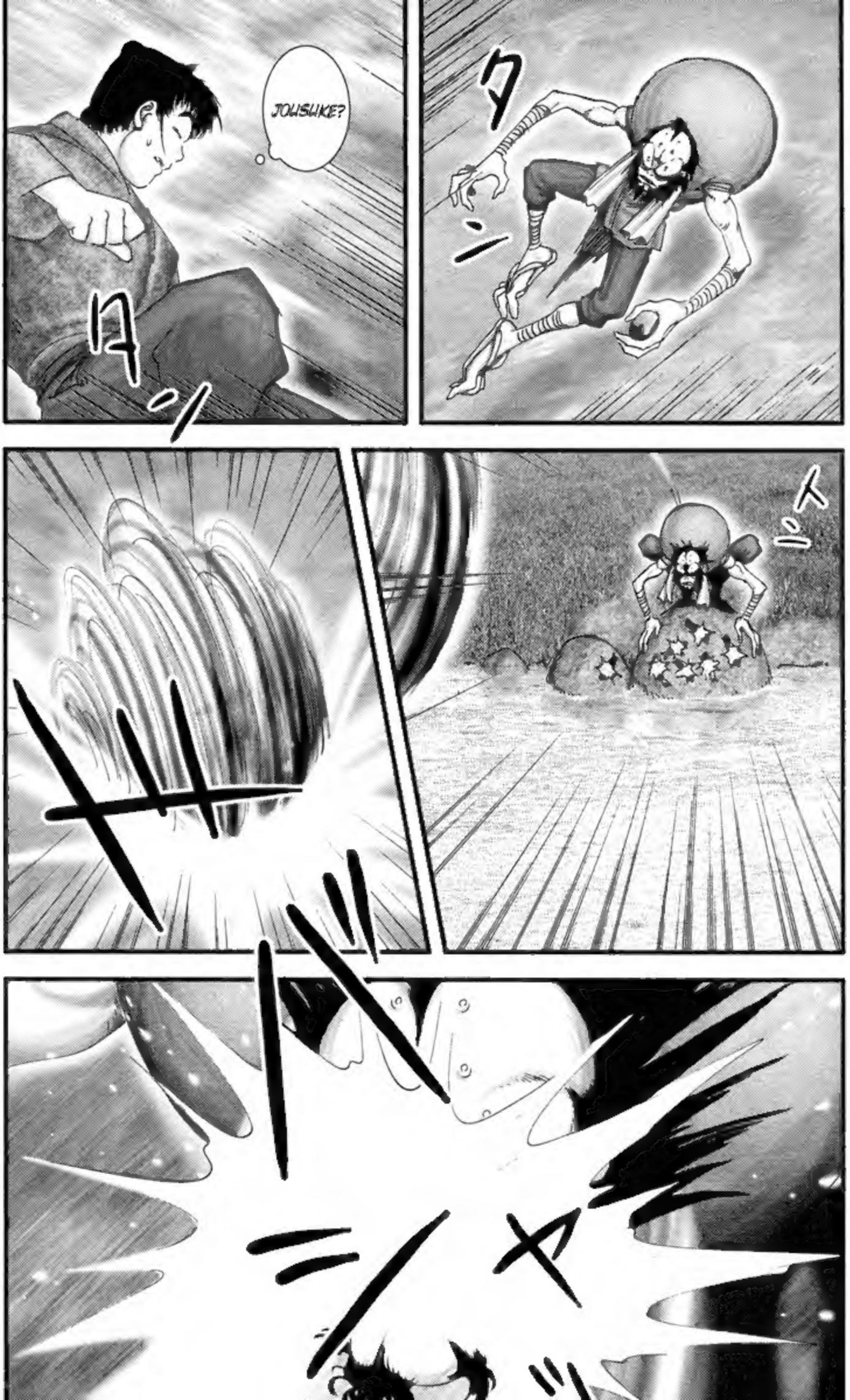

KOUGA .
KISARAGI
SAEMON

NOTE: JUBEI'S SKILL IS TO TELL FORTUNES

KOUGA. JIMUSHI JUBEI
YOU WILL ENCOUNTER THE 'STAR OF WATER DISASTER', SHOUGEN
I THINK YOU SHOULD CANCEL YOUR FISHING TRIP FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, EH?



I SHOULD MAKE HIM SUFFER DEFEAT FOR ONCE.
HAHAHA, IF THAT IS SO THEN MAYBE...
SPITEFUL JIMUSHI! HOW INEPT DOES HE THINK I AM!
AH, BUT JIMUSHI'S FORTUNE-TELLING SKILLS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT.
ドドド
?
?
!?

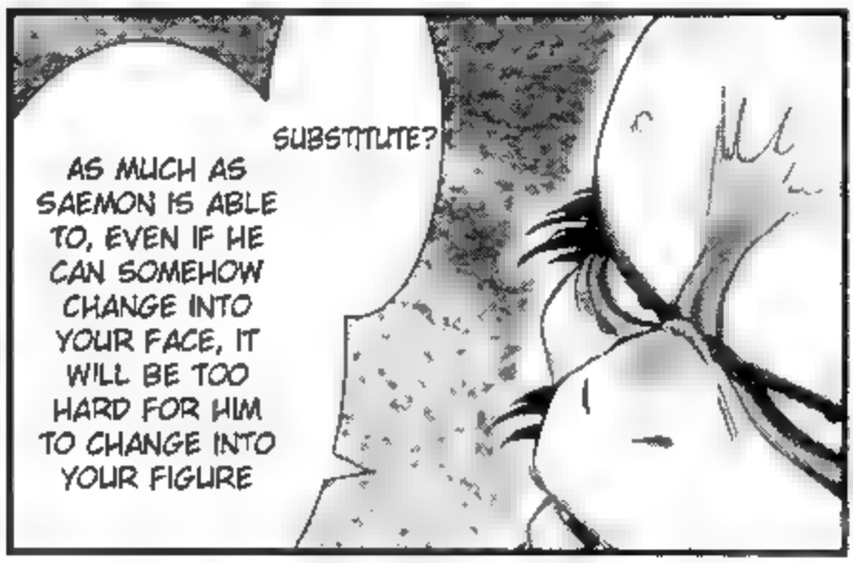

JOUSUKE?

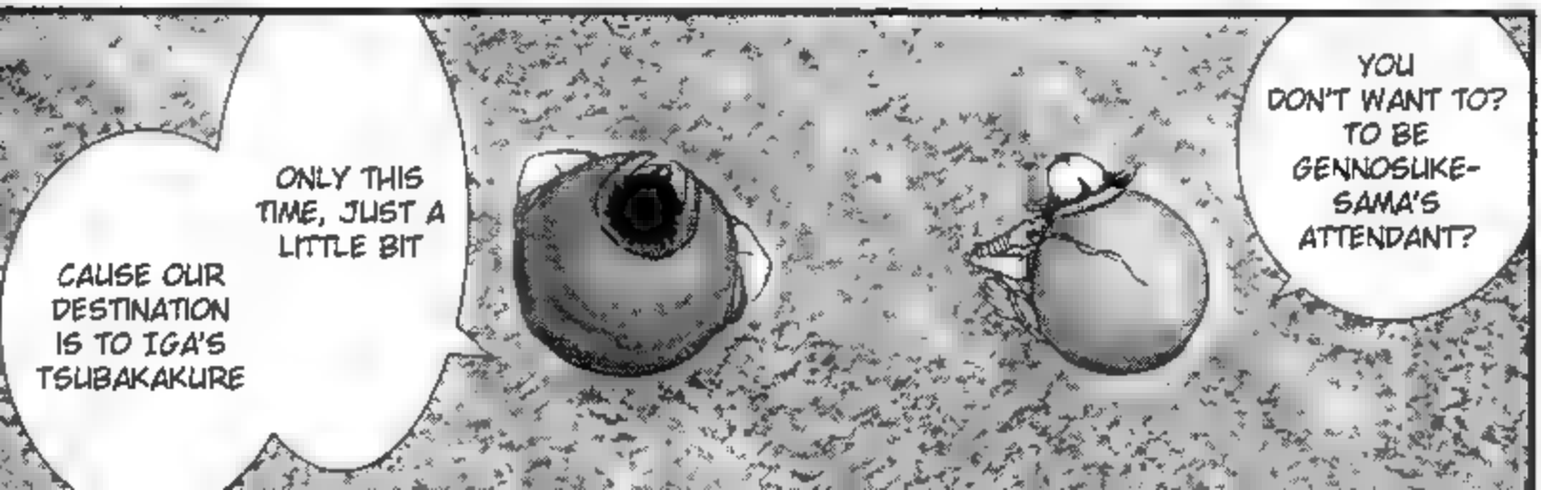
ムカッ
ぶ
ぶ
ぶ
AH
OKOI
BIG BRO-THER
ACT PROPERLY, JOUSUKE!
YOU BETTER...
KOUGA
OKOI
MY HAND WAS UNCON-SCIOUSLY MOVING LIKE THAT
AH, I'M SORRY OKOI-DONO,
KOUGA -DONO JOUSUKE

I WANTED TO GET SAEMON-DONO TO SUBSTITUTE FOR ME, BUT I FORGOT TO ASK HIM
OOPS,

.....

I GUESS
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE


SUBSTITUTE?
AS MUCH AS SAEMON IS ABLE TO, EVEN IF HE CAN SOMEHOW CHANGE INTO YOUR FACE, IT WILL BE TOO HARD FOR HIM TO CHANGE INTO YOUR FIGURE


CAUSE OUR DESTINATION IS TO IGA'S TSUBAKAKURE
ONLY THIS TIME, JUST A LITTLE BIT
YOU DON'T WANT TO? TO BE GENNOSUKE-SAMA'S ATTENDANT?

WHAT DOES GENNOSUKE
GOING THERE TO MEET IGA'S OGEN'S GRANDDAUGHTER
IT'S DISGUSTING, BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
THE PEACE TREATY IS NO REASON TO BECOME CARELESS...

IGA
YASHAMARU

RIGHT NOW, ALL THE MEN ARE ON THE STREETS KEEPING A LOOK OUT FOR KOUGA DANJO AND GENNOSUKE
NO ONE IS COMING, HOTARUBI
YASHAMARU-DONO, IS IT ALRIGHT THAT
TO GO ESPECIALLY TO SEE THE FACES OF THOSE KOUGA PEOPLE?
I'LL PASS ON THAT
I'D RATHER BE HERE WITH YOU

HMM

IN THE HOUSE OF KOUGA DANJO

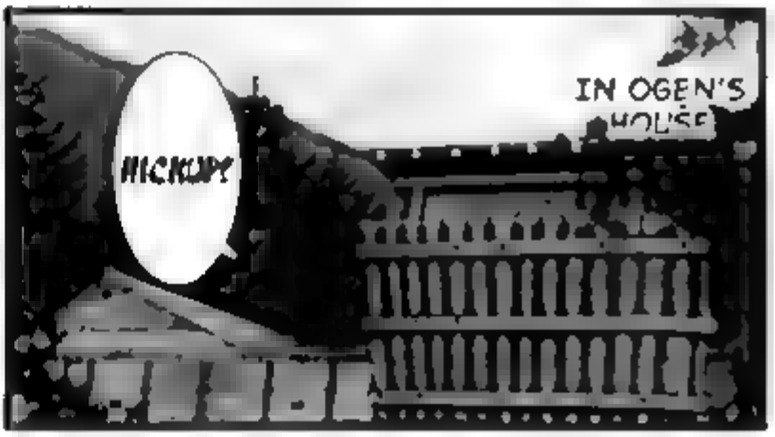
HOLD IT, KYOUBU, YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS WOULD ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE,

I STILL FEEL UNEASY HAVING ONLY JOUSUKE GO WITH HIM!
I SHOULD BE THERE AS AN ATTENDANT IN THE SHADOWS TO PROTECT HIM

HMM

GOING TO MEET THIS IGA GIRL?
WHY IS GENNOSUKE-SAMA..
KOUGA KAGERO

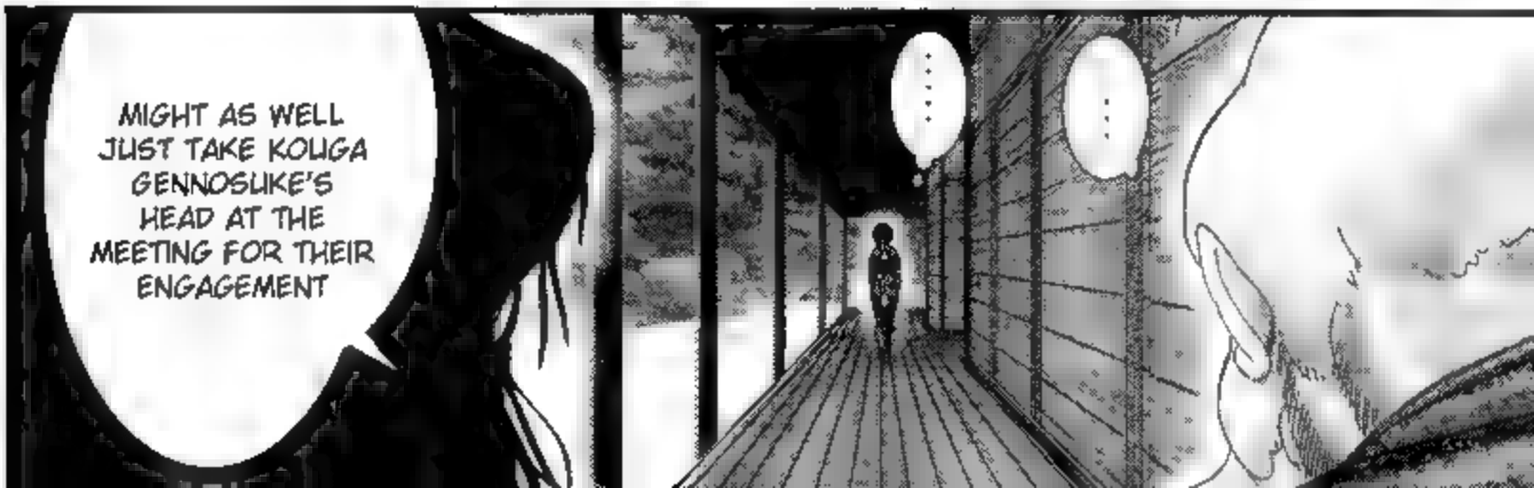
IGA BORO


IN OGEN'S HOUSE
HICKUP!

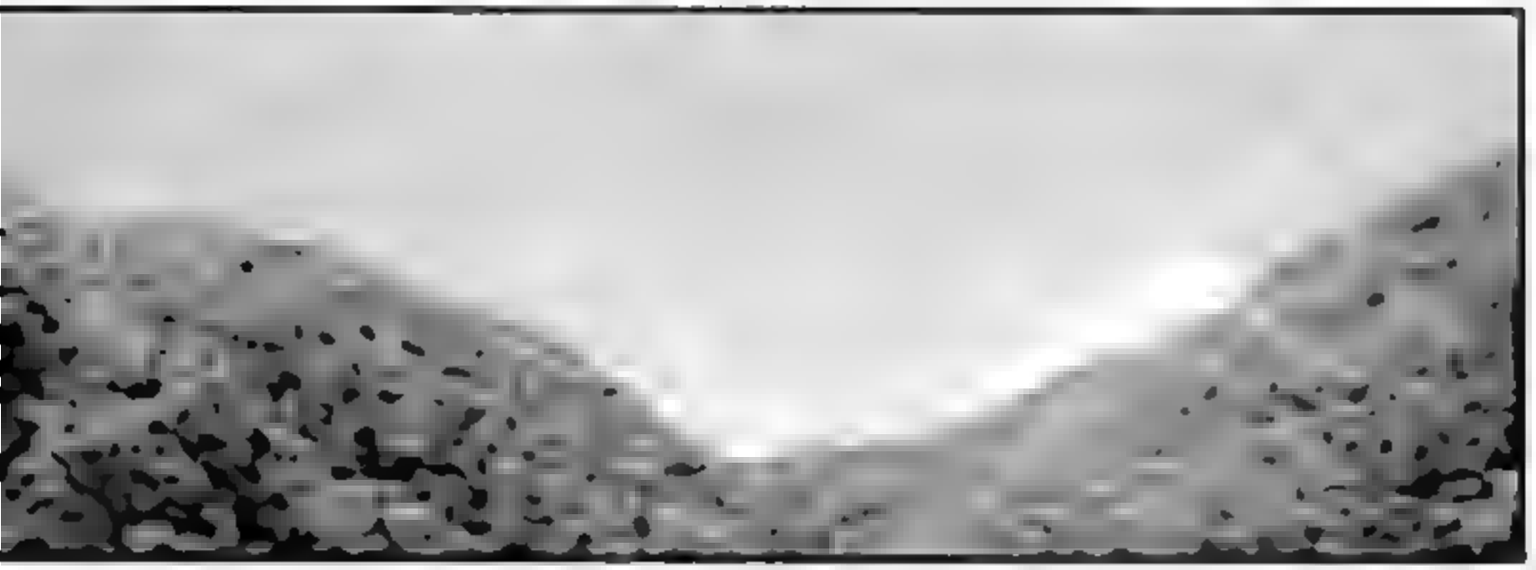
LEAVE IT TO ME, ROUSAI
WE MUSTN'T FAIL, NENKI
OBORO-SAMA HAS COME
.....
NENKI

HA! HAS YOUR HICKUPS STOPPED.
OBORO-SAMA?
...

HICKUP


MIGHT AS WELL JUST TAKE KOUGA GENNOSUKE'S HEAD AT THE MEETING FOR THEIR ENGAGEMENT
.....
...

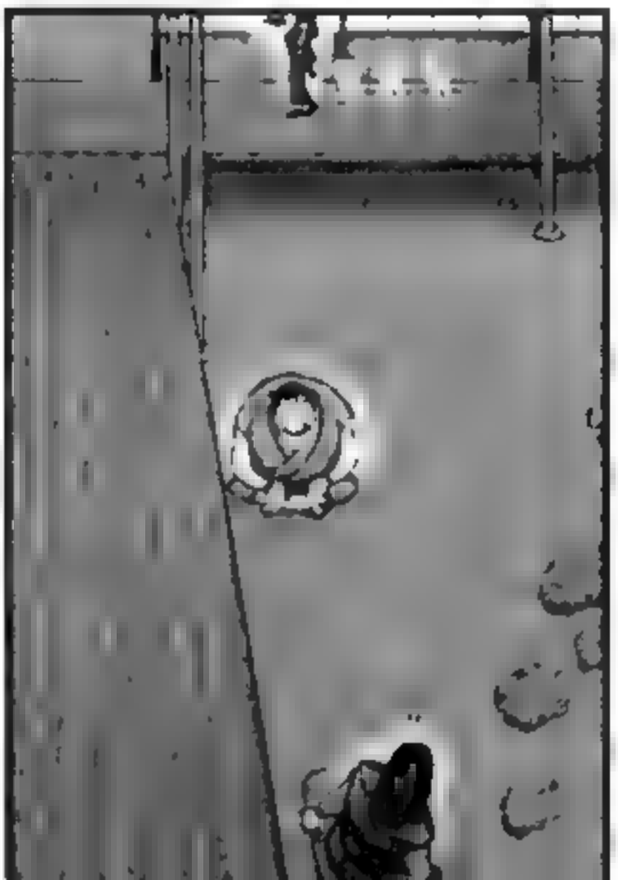
NOT EVEN I WOULD GO
WE CAN'T LET HIM BE THE ONES WHO VIOLATE THE PEACE



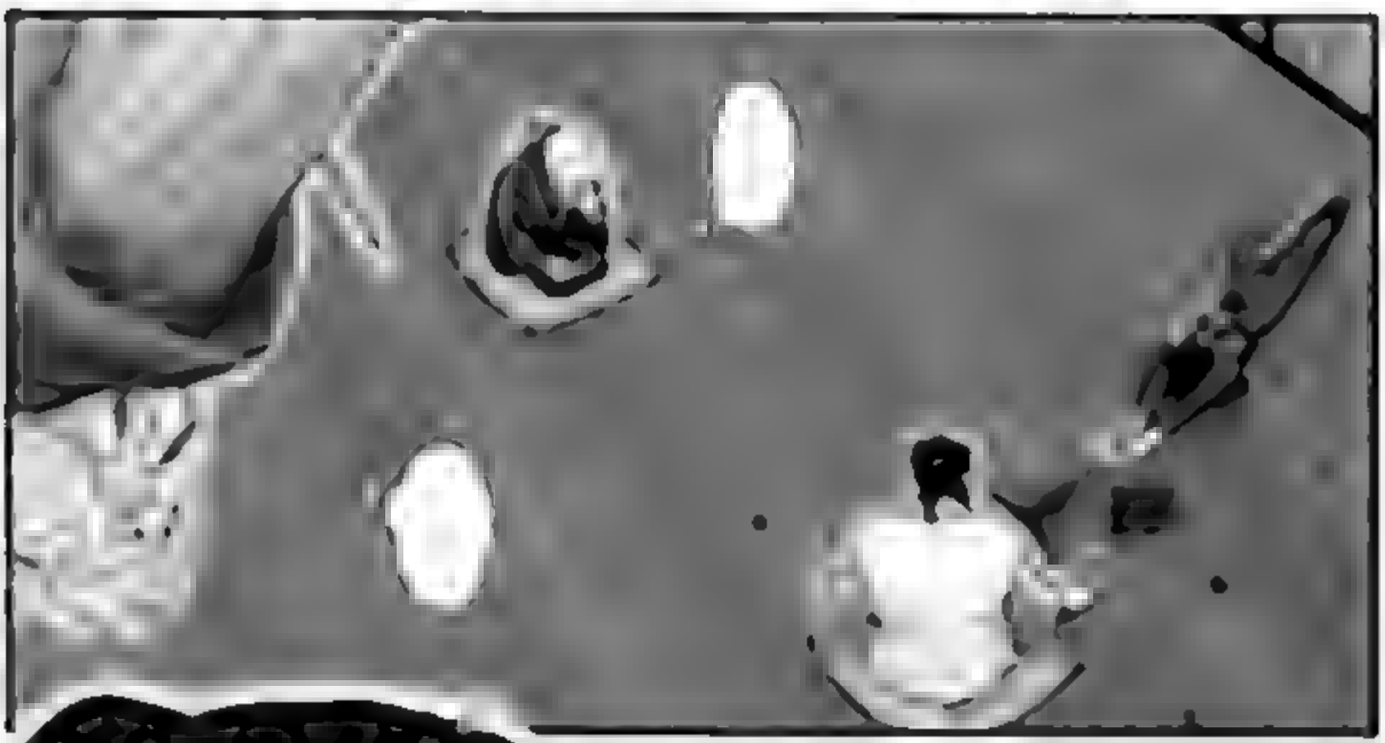
GRAND-FATHER
EVEN SO, I WON'T STOP HOPING
GENNOSUKE, WHAT YOU'RE THINKING MAY NOT BE WRONG,
BUT 400 YEARS HAS SOLIDIFIED THE GRUDGE AND HATRED, IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO DISSOLVE IT
KOUGA MANJI VALLEY AND IGA TSUBAKURE
WE WILL NOW BREAK OFF THE CHAINS OF HATRED THAT HAS BOUND EACH OTHER AND BOTH TRIBES WILL JOIN HANDS
TO STEP OUT INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD TOGETHER
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, GENNO-SUKE
BUT IT IS BETTER THAT WAY...

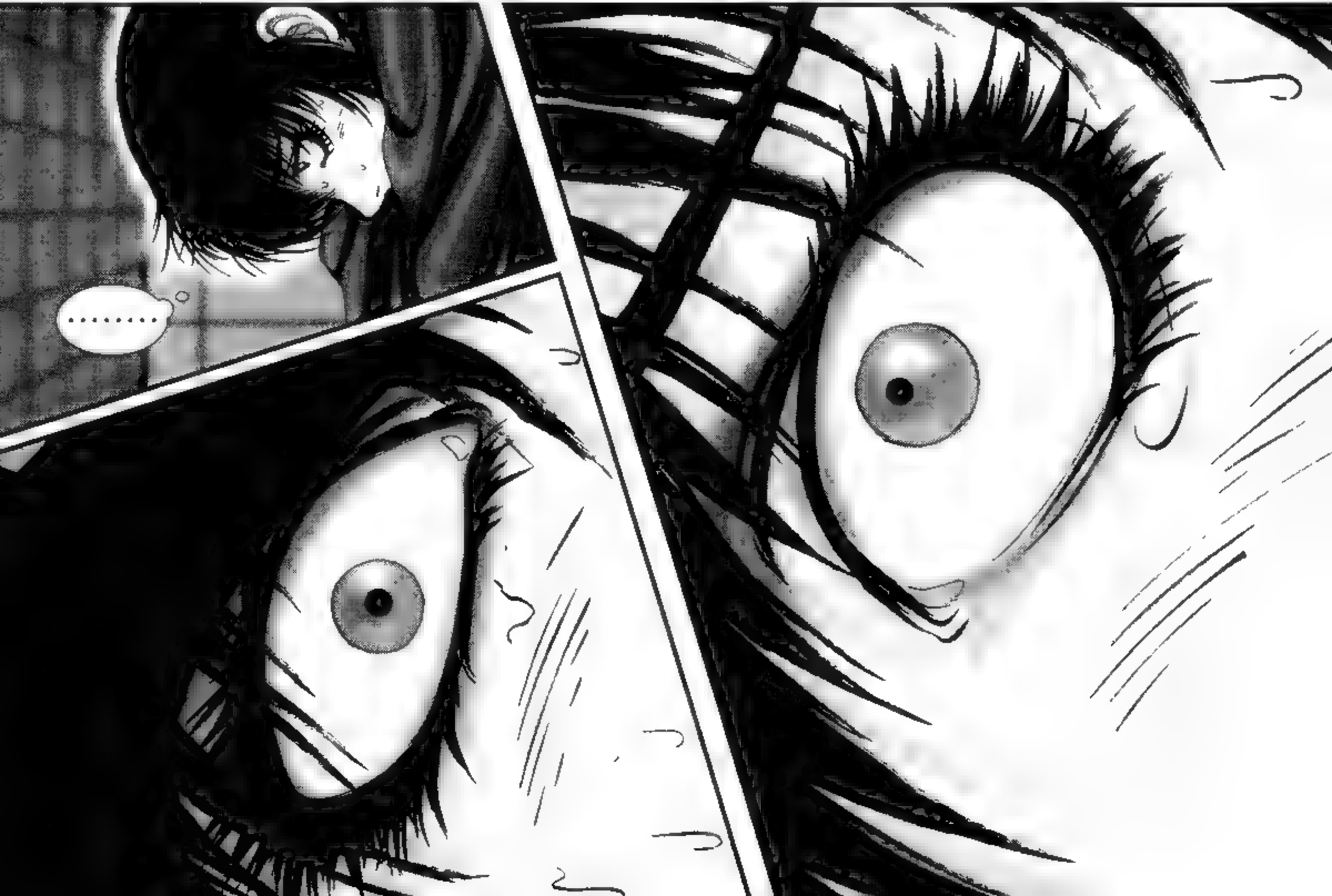
SLOWLY DRINK IT ALL UP
HERE'S SOME WATER
HICKUP
HOW'S IT OBORO-SAMA?
IT DOES SEEM LIKE IT
THANK YOU, AKEGINU
THAT SEEMED TO HAVE CURED IT, I THINK

GA
EHIMA
OSHIRO



KOUGA GENNOSUKE-SAMA
THAT PERSON IS
AH!
..AH
..AH!
HICKUP





?
!?
I...
I'M
VERY..
..VERY
SORRY

?
I AM VERY SORRY GRANDMOTHER
AND

HE IS QUITE STRANGE, EH? ..THAT KOUGA GENNOSUKE FELLOW
.....
I HAVE BROUGHT SHAME..
TO IGA
.....
HE SAID TO TELL YOU THAT HE WANTS TO MEET YOU AGAIN
IT SEEMS
HE LIKES YOU QUITE A BIT

OGEN-SAMA IS BECOMING SOFT

THAT GIRL, OBORO'S EYES..
DEAD FATHER

ANY NINJUTSU TECHNIQUES WILL EVAPORATE LIKE MIST IN FRONT OF THOSE EYES
ACCORDING TO OGEN, OBORO WAS BORN WITH ILLUSION-BREAKING EYES

OH, AS I'D EXPECT OF YOU GENNOSUKE, YOU NOTICED THAT?

IF..

TO BE BORN WITH SUCH A TERRIBLE POWER... SHE COULD WIPE OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE

ONE WOULD DESTROY SOMETHING SO MONSTROUS EVEN IF IT WAS YOUR ALLY...
OBORO'S EYE SKILL IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM YOURS
THAT POWER ALLOWS TO CONTROL THE SKILLS OF YOUR ENEMIES, AND YET

AGAINST OBORO-DONO
I CHALLENGED HER WITH MY "EYE TECHNIQUE" TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT.
IN THE END, WHICH WOULD

?
HER EYES WOULDN'T SHOW ANY MURDEROUS INTENT...
EVEN IF WE BATTLED

TOGETHER...
JOIN HANDS AND
BOTH CLANS, WILL NOW
DEA...
REQUIEM AND
IF I WERE TO PRAY,
TOGETHER WE'LL STEP OUT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD

WORLD...

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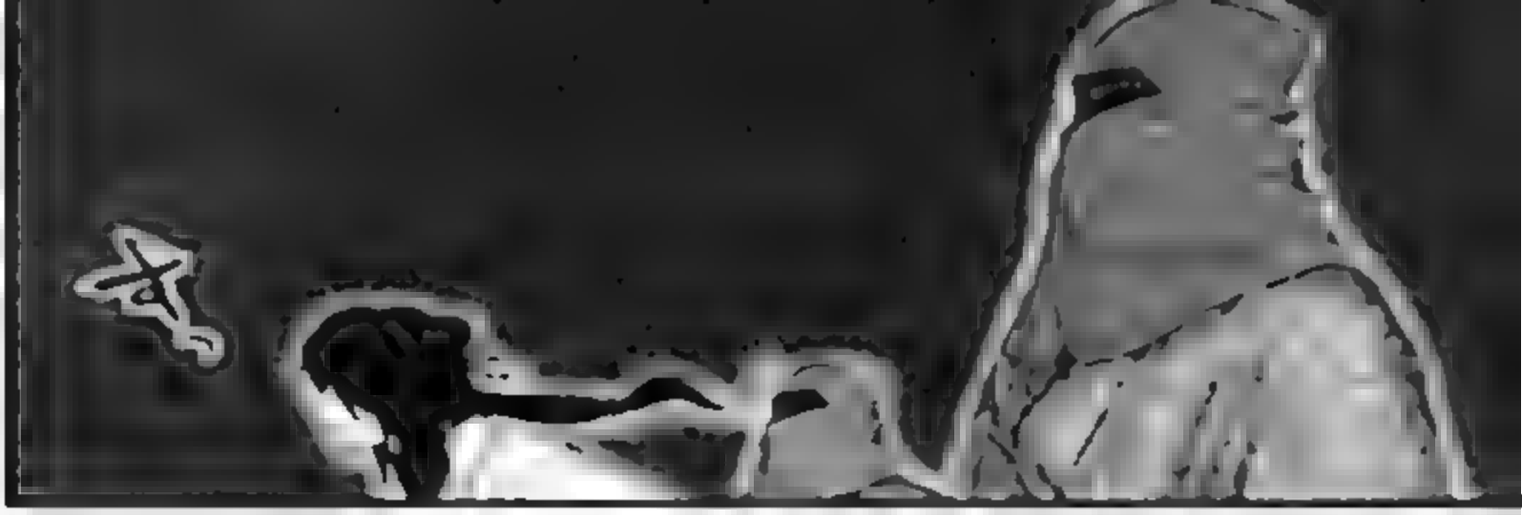
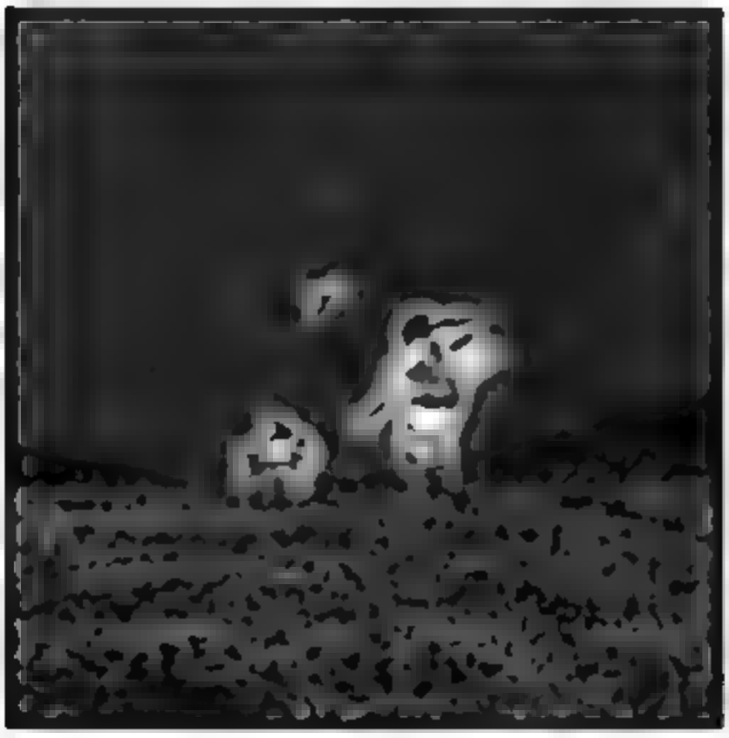
I'LL CATCH IT!





WAIT!
REMEMBER NOT TO PURSUE A BEATEN ENEMY!

THEY MAY BE LURKING AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE...
IF THAT IS GOKU'S VOICE

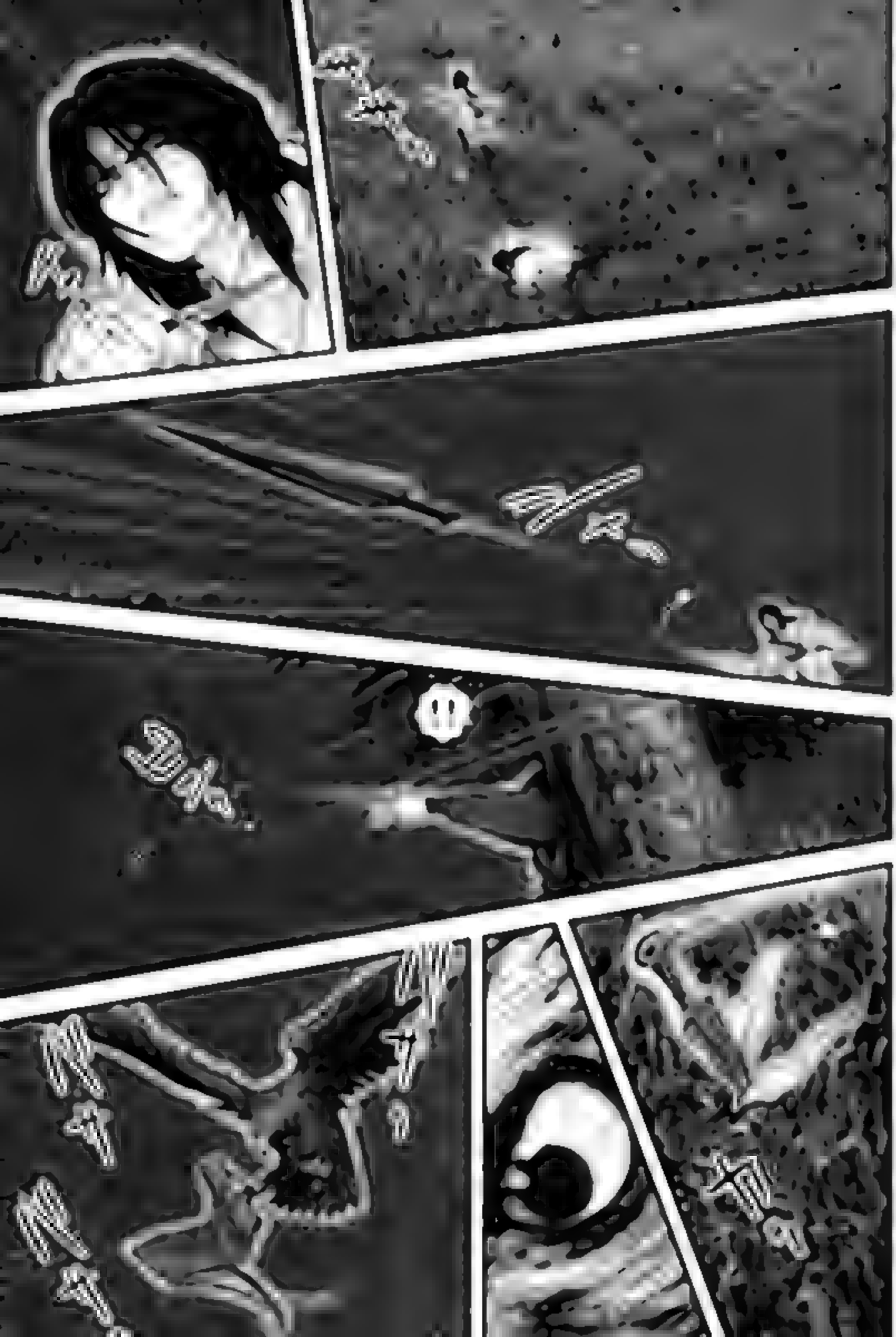
THERE ARE TWO MORE LEFT...
USE HEARING AS A FORM OF DISCERN-MENT...

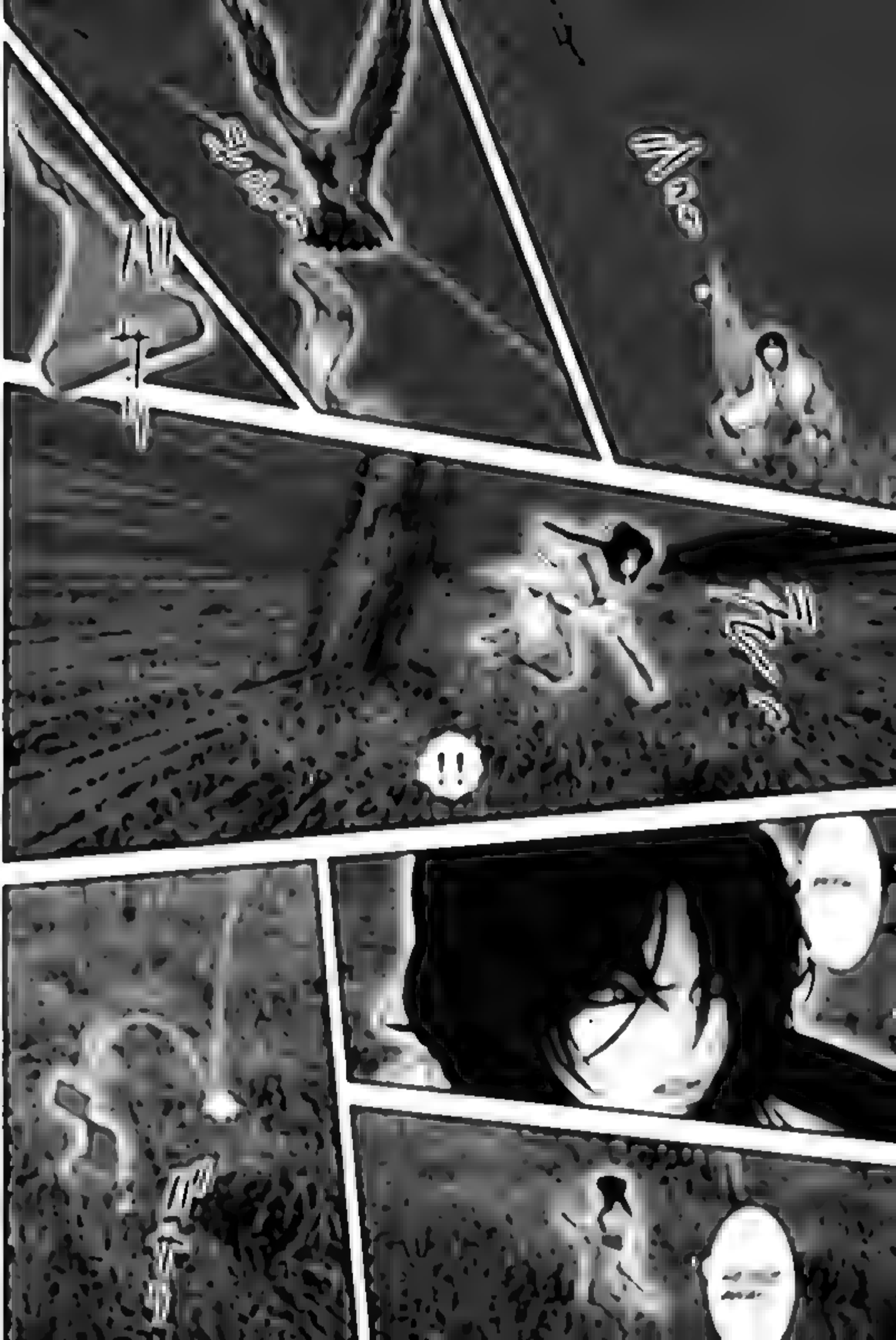
SHOULD BE SAEMON...

YOU'RE FILLED WITH

THIS VOICE....
THAT WAY OF FLYING IS OBVIOUSLY A TRICK!

!?
THERE IS SOMEONE HIDING BEHIND THAT TREE!





SAEMON.
I ACCIDENTALLY LET THE ENEMY ESCAPE...

AT LEAST WE GOT THE SCROLL BACK!
NEVER MIND.

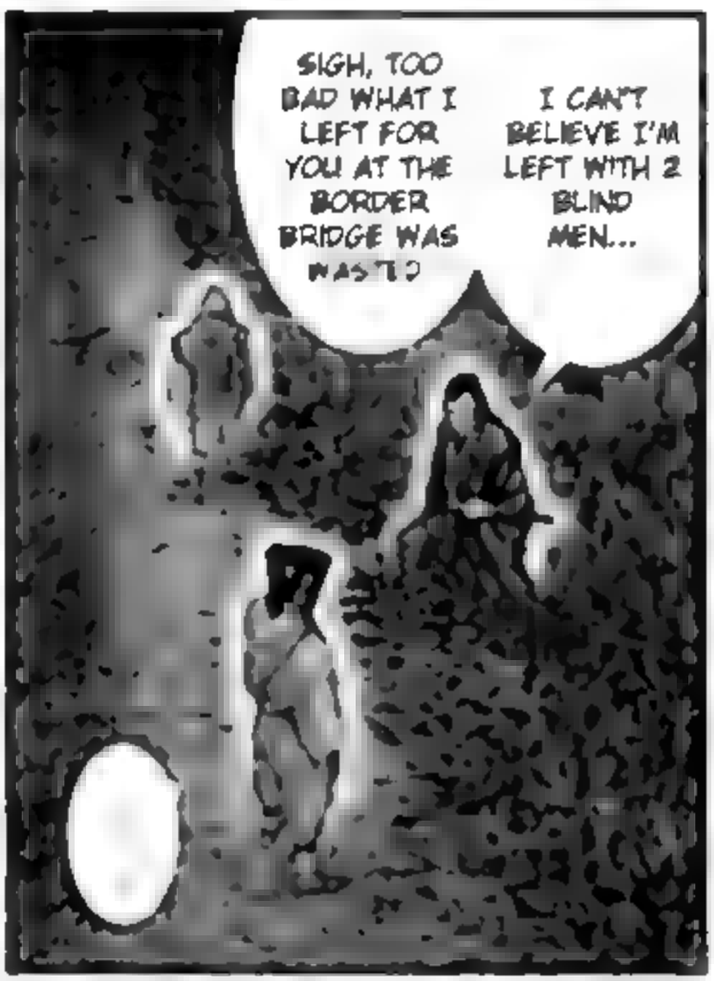
SO THAT IS HOW IT IS...

THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY WENT AFTER THE EAGLE WAS ASARAGI SAEMON!
CLEVER!
EH!

HOW... HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE!
YOUR EYES!

HA
NENKI AND HOTARUBI DID WELL!
NO WONDER THEY'RE THE CHOSEN TEN IGA!

I SAW
HEART!


SIGH, TOO BAD WHAT I LEFT FOR YOU AT THE BORDER BRIDGE WAS WASTED
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LEFT WITH 2 BLIND MEN...

IT'S TOO BAD FOR YOUR PREPARATION, TENZEN.
DO YOU WANT ME TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE?

BUT, I'M INTERESTED TO SEE..

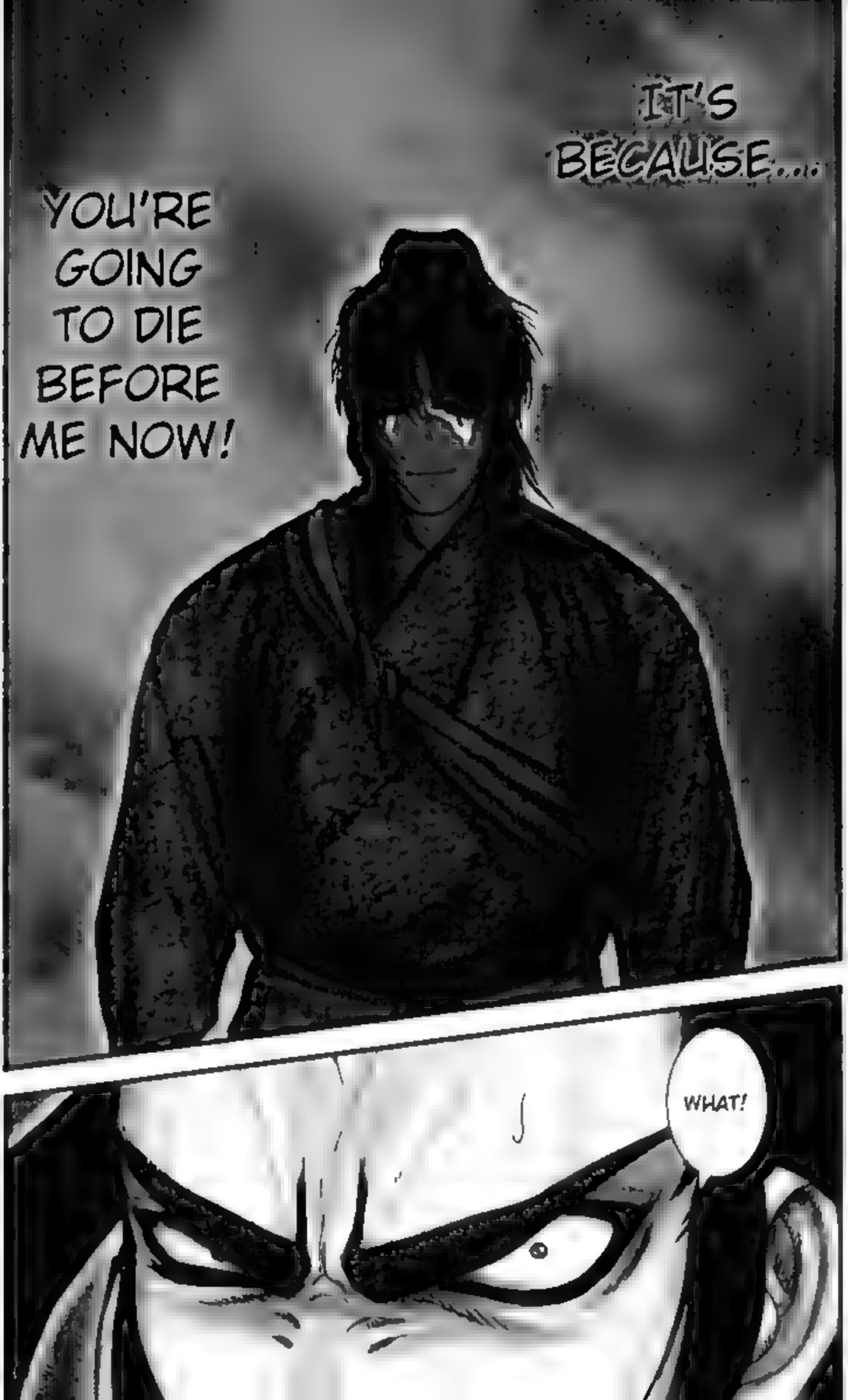
EVEN BEFORE YOUR DEATH,

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO SEE THI WITH YO HEART!
!?

AT FIRST I WANTED TO KILL YOU LAST.
SO YOU CAN SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
GENNO-SUKE!

BUT, YOU'RE UNFORTUNATE AS I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL YOU!
THE FALL OF KOUGA AND MY MARRIAGE WITH OBORO-DONO,
AND THEN WILL I KILL YOU.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?
YES, IT IS A PITY...
I CAN'T SEE YOUR MARRIAGE WITH OBORO!


IT'S BECAUSE...
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE BEFORE ME NOW!
WHAT!

!!
AAH!

NYO-
MA
YOU
2

...HE SHOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.

GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, HYOMA!
AIYAYA!
ARE YOU HURT?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
...
DID YOU CATCH IT?
THAT EAGLE...

AH...

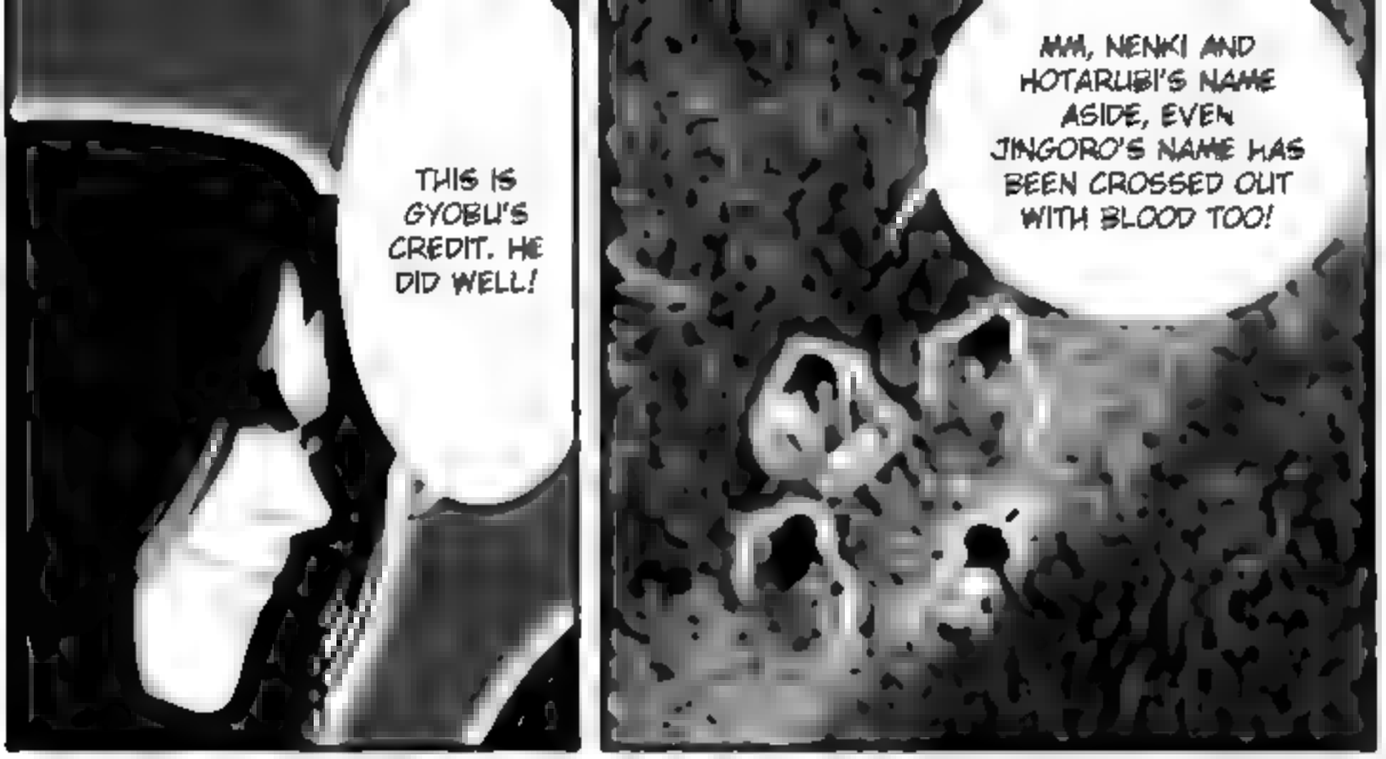
...MY QUESTION WAS, DID YOU...
CATCH THAT EAGLE?

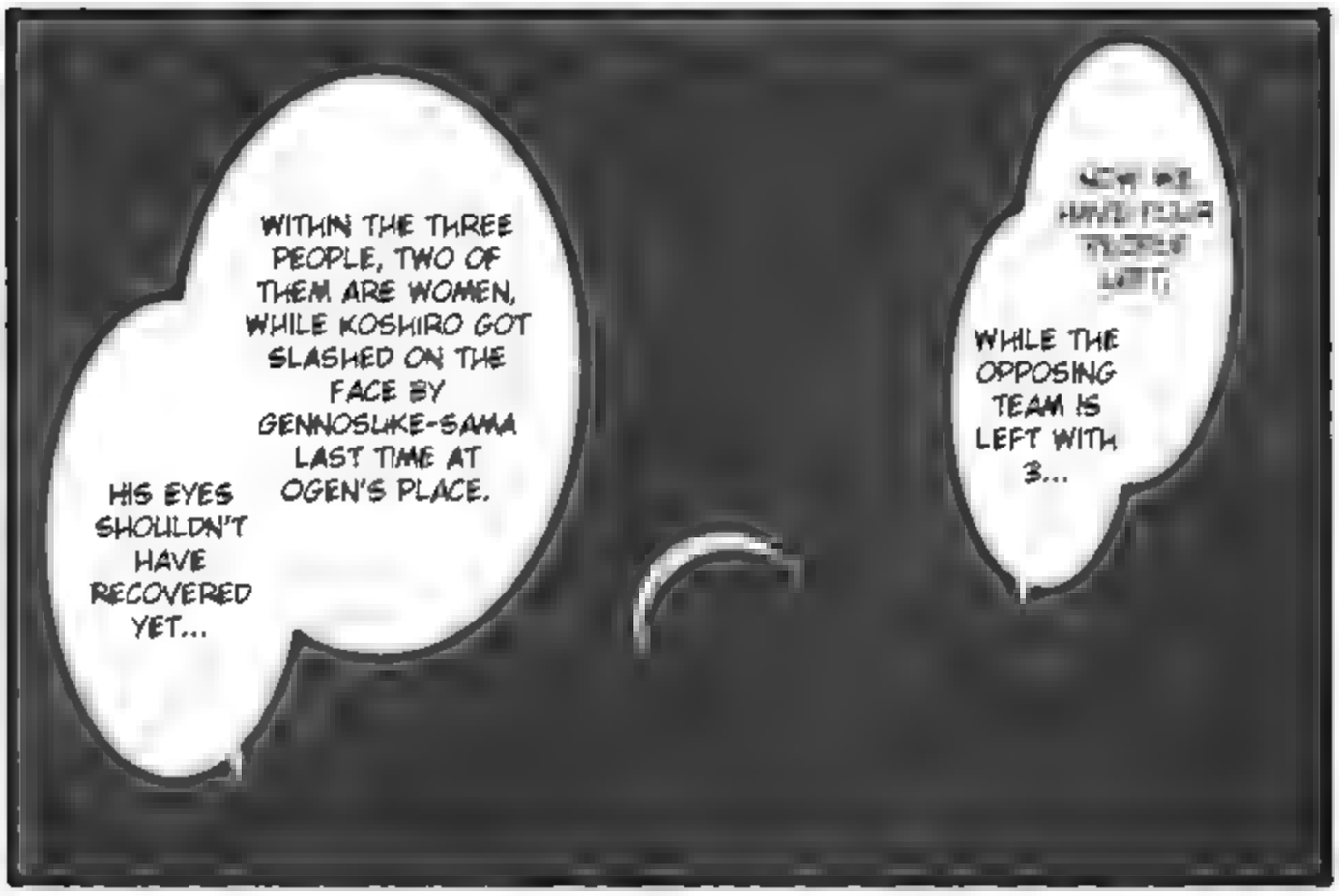
WELL...
IT SEEMS THAT EAGLE WAS BEING CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE BEHIND THE BUSHES, SO IT WAS DIFFICULT...

THAT EAGLE... IT FLEW AWAY...

GENNOSUKE-SAMA SUSPECTS THE EAGLE BELONGS TO OBORO-DONO...
EVEN NOW, HE'S STILL CONCERNED ABOUT OBORO-DONO'S SAFETY...
NO, WE DIDN'T CATCH IT...

AH, BUT WE GOT THE SCROLL BACK!


THIS IS GYOBU'S CREDIT. HE DID WELL!
MM, NENKI AND HOTARUBI'S NAME ASIDE, EVEN JINGORO'S NAME HAS BEEN CROSSED OUT WITH BLOOD TOO!


WITHIN THE THREE PEOPLE, TWO OF THEM ARE WOMEN, WHILE KOSHIRO GOT SLASHED ON THE FACE BY GENNOSUKE-SAMA LAST TIME AT OGEN'S PLACE.
HIS EYES SHOULDN'T HAVE RECOVERED YET...
WHILE THE OPPOSING TEAM IS LEFT WITH 3...

IN THE END, HE'S ONLY THIS WEAK!
TRUTHFULLY SPEAKING, I THOUGHT THIS YAKUSHIJI TENZEN WOULD BE THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT SINCE HIS NINJUTSU IS UNKNOWN...

HOW ABOUT YOU?
HYOMA, KAGERO, THE BOTH OF YOU ESCORT GENNOSUKE-SAMA TO OKAZAKI FIRST.
THEN,

I'LL USE THIS PERSON TO DO SOME-THING...
I THINK...

ちゃりん
HOSTEL IN CHIRIYU

NO, THE BLOWING OF THE WIND FROM THE SEA WILL MAKE YOUR BODY UNCOMFORTABLE AND STICKY.
I'M SORRY, AKEGINU! I FORCED YOU TO HELD ME PREPARE HOT WATER
OKAY!

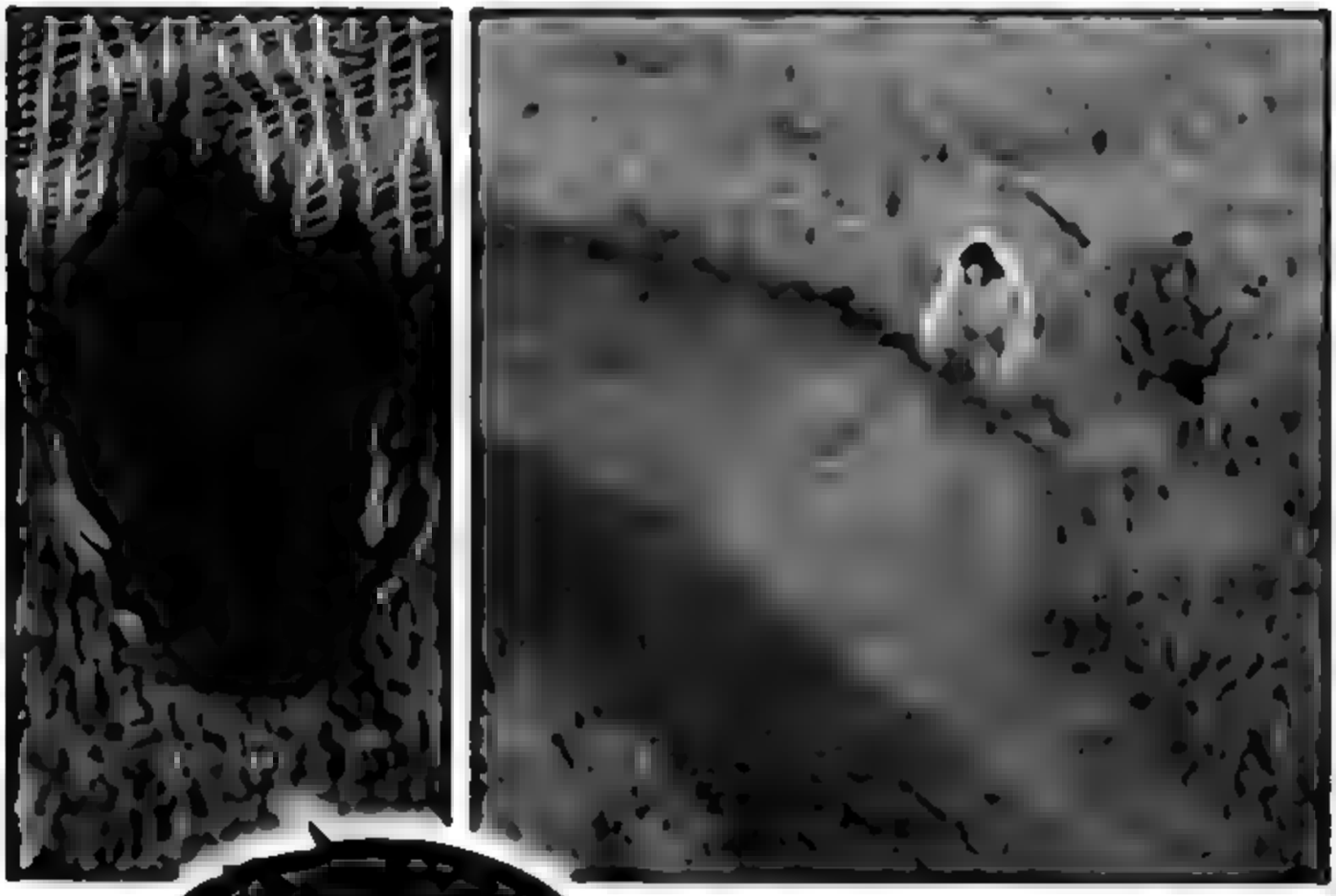
IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT NOTICING IT. I'M SORRY, OBORO-DONO!

THEY ALL KNEW I'M ABOUT TO DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS!
I MUST MAKE SURE GEN-SAMA'S GENES ARE PASSED DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATION
OBORO-DONO! PLEASE BE MY WIFE!
HEHE... EVEN... YOUR BREAST HAVE BECOME HOT THIS FAST!
ARE YOU COLD, OBORO-DONO?
OBORO -DONO?

WHERE DID

◆第二十二段 終◆

EAST OF
NEAR
KOMABA...



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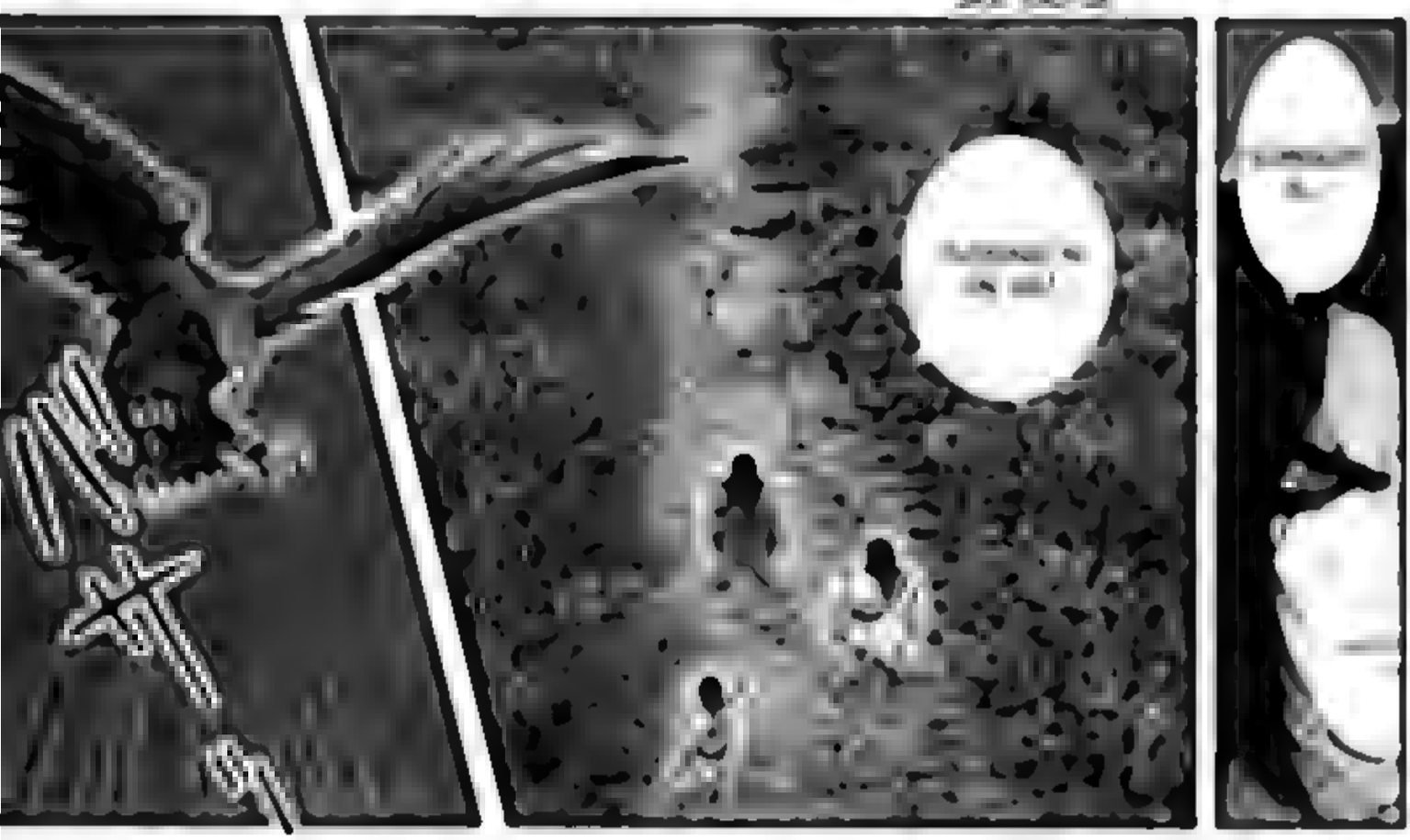
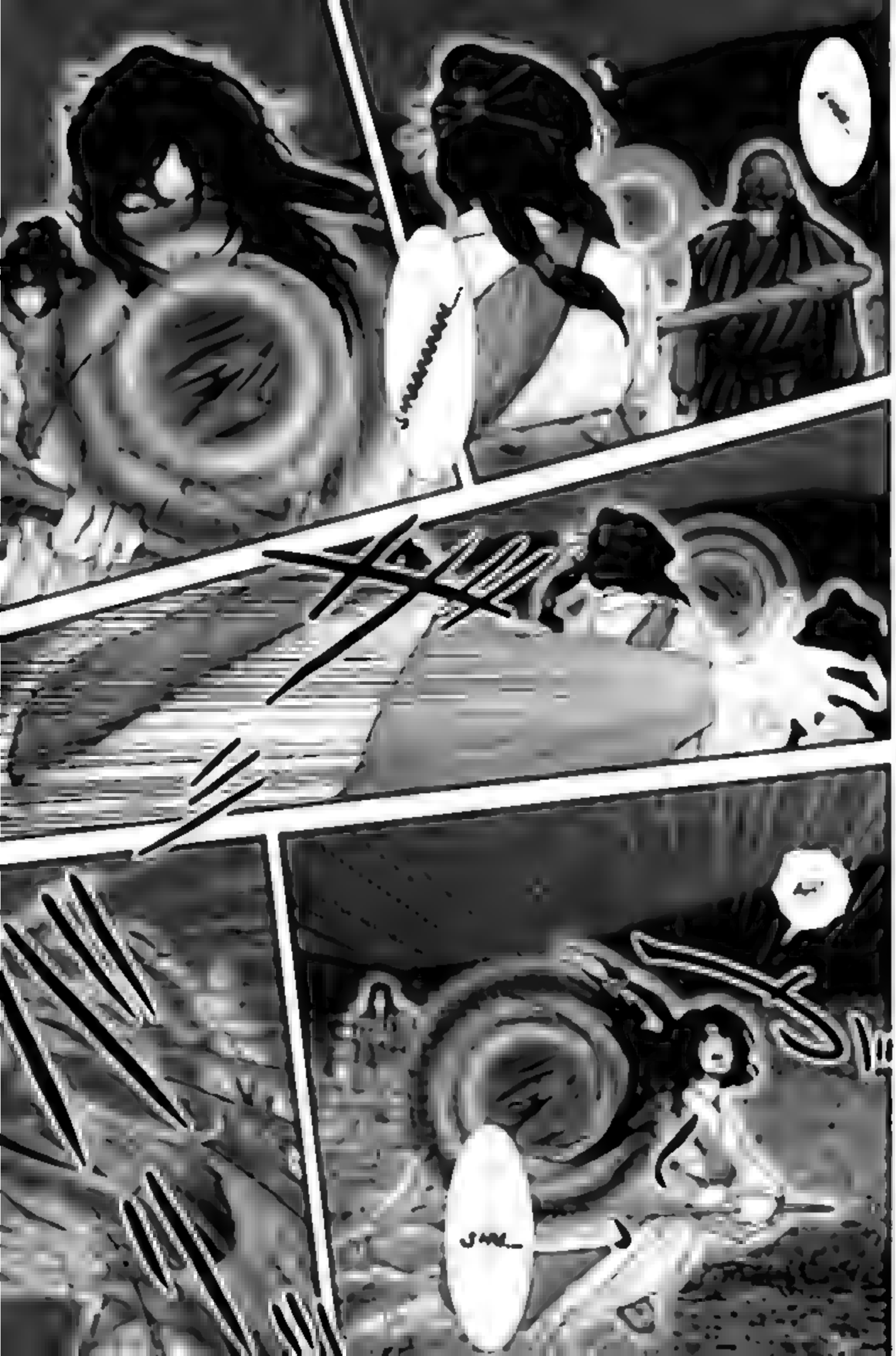
NOW I CAN GO AFTER HYOUMA AND THE REST.
DONE...
SFX: TIE



THE KOUGA?
!!
CH!

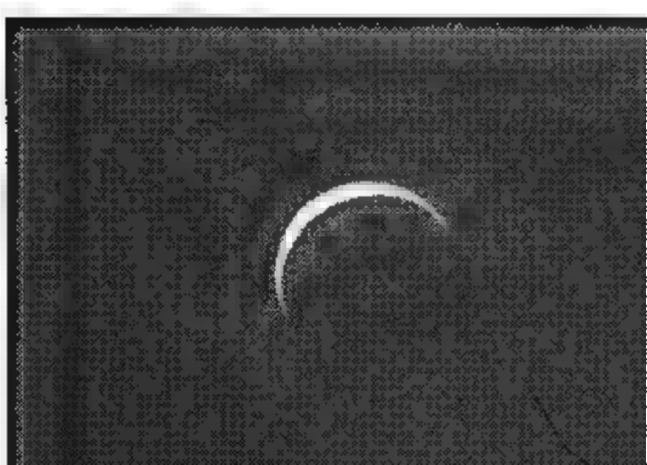


FUWAHH...
SHWAAAA!
GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
KAGEROU!
TAKE GENNOSUKE-SAMA AWAY FROM HERE!
FUSHAAA...
FUSHUU...

Um
Hm
Pois é...

LOOK!
KOSHIOU!!
!!

GREAT HAWK... WHERE DID YOU FLY TO?
I NEED THE SOUND OF YOUR FLAPPING WINGS TO DETERMINE THE ENEMY'S LOCATION!
HIS EYES, WHICH GENNOSUKE SLASHED HAVEN'T RECOVERED YET...
...AS I THOUGHT.



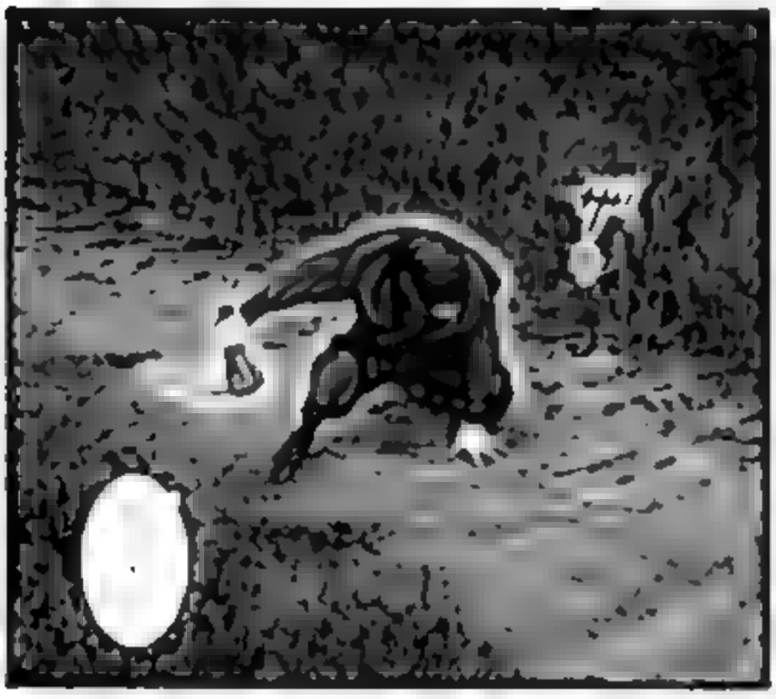
KAGEROU!"
WHERE'S HYOUMA?
HYOUMA IS BEHIND, BUT HE'LL CATCH UP WITH US SOON.
DEFINI-TELY!
PIF!

Yaa

SHIT!
SHUUUUU!
I WAS... CARELESS

I SENSED
HAVE HIT HIM BU-
YOU MUST...
STAY ALIVE
GENNOSUKE SAKU

I DIDN'T HEAR...
THE SOUND OF HIS BODY FALLING ON THE GROUND!



IS IT POSSIBLE I FAILED TO KILL HIM?

THAT
SHIMO
HAVE...
KILLED HIM!
I'VE ALREADY
HIT HIM
IMPOSSIBLE!
.....
!?
WHO...?
WHO'S
CALLING
ME?
... KO...
SHIROU-DO...
NO...

◆第二十三殺、終◆

SEE
HEAR...
ALL

OBORO-SAMA.
AKEGINU.

BUT... FOR SOME REASON, SHE'S ACTING STRANGELY.

OUR HAWK?
OUR HAWK HAS RETURNED.

WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO TENZEN-DONO OR KOSHIROU-DONO?

3 VERSUS 4

KOSHIROU-
DONO...
TH...THAT
VOICE,
IS THAT YOU,
AKEGINU-
DONO?
AKEGINU-
DONO?

AAH
KO..
KOSHIROU-
DONO?!
WH...
WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE...

COULD IT
BE...
BEHIND
KOSHIROU-
DONO IS...
THE ONE WHO
IS STANDING
DEAD LIKE
THAT

MUROGA HYOUMA OF KOUGA!
WHAT?!
IS THAT SO? MUROGA HYOUMA
HE DIED WHILE STANDING?
NO WONDER

...THERE WASN'T ANY SOUND OF HIM FALLING DOWN...
HE DIED WHILE STANDING... A FORMIDABLE MAN
.....
...COULD IT BE...
.....
.AKEGINU-DONO
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
COULD IT BE
THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED AT THE INN AT CHIRIYULU
WHERE IS OBORO-SAMA?
WHAT HAPPENED TO OBORO-SAMA!!

AA... KOSHIROU-DONO...
KOUGA'S...
KISARAGI SAEMON SUDDENLY... ATTACKED THE INN...
IT WAS BRUTAL...
OBORO-SAMA WAS...
OBORO-SAMA WAS...!
.....

HE SLAUGHTERED HER LIKE AN ANIMAL...
かく

MY...
LADY...

YA
BASTARDS !

SUSUMU……!!
KI…
KISARAGI……

AAAH...
KOSHIROU-DONO.
SINCE OBORO-SAMA WAS KILLED...
NOW, IGA WILL...
CERTAINLY LOSE...
DON'T SAY THAT!
IGA WILL NOT LOSE!!
I REFUSE TO LOSE!!

HOW CAN IGA LOSE
TO KOUGA!!
KO... KOSHIROU-DONO...
... AKEGINU-DONO...
WHILE YOU... OBORO-SAMA WAS BEING ATTACKED, WHAT WERE YOU DOING...?

COULD IT BE...
WHILE YOU SAW OBORO-SAMA BEING KILLED...
YOU RAN AWAY TO COME HERE?!
THAT... I WAS...
...I WAS BOUND AND TIED UP AT THAT TIME...
I WAITED FOR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE...
AND RAN HERE.

EVEN IF I LOSE MY LIFE,
I MUST TELL TENZEN-SAMA AND YOU ABOUT THIS,
THAT WAS ALL I HAD IN MIND...
SO HERE I AM ALIVE BUT IN SHAME.

BUT NOW, I DO NOT HAVE ANY REGRETS LEFT,
KOSHIROU-

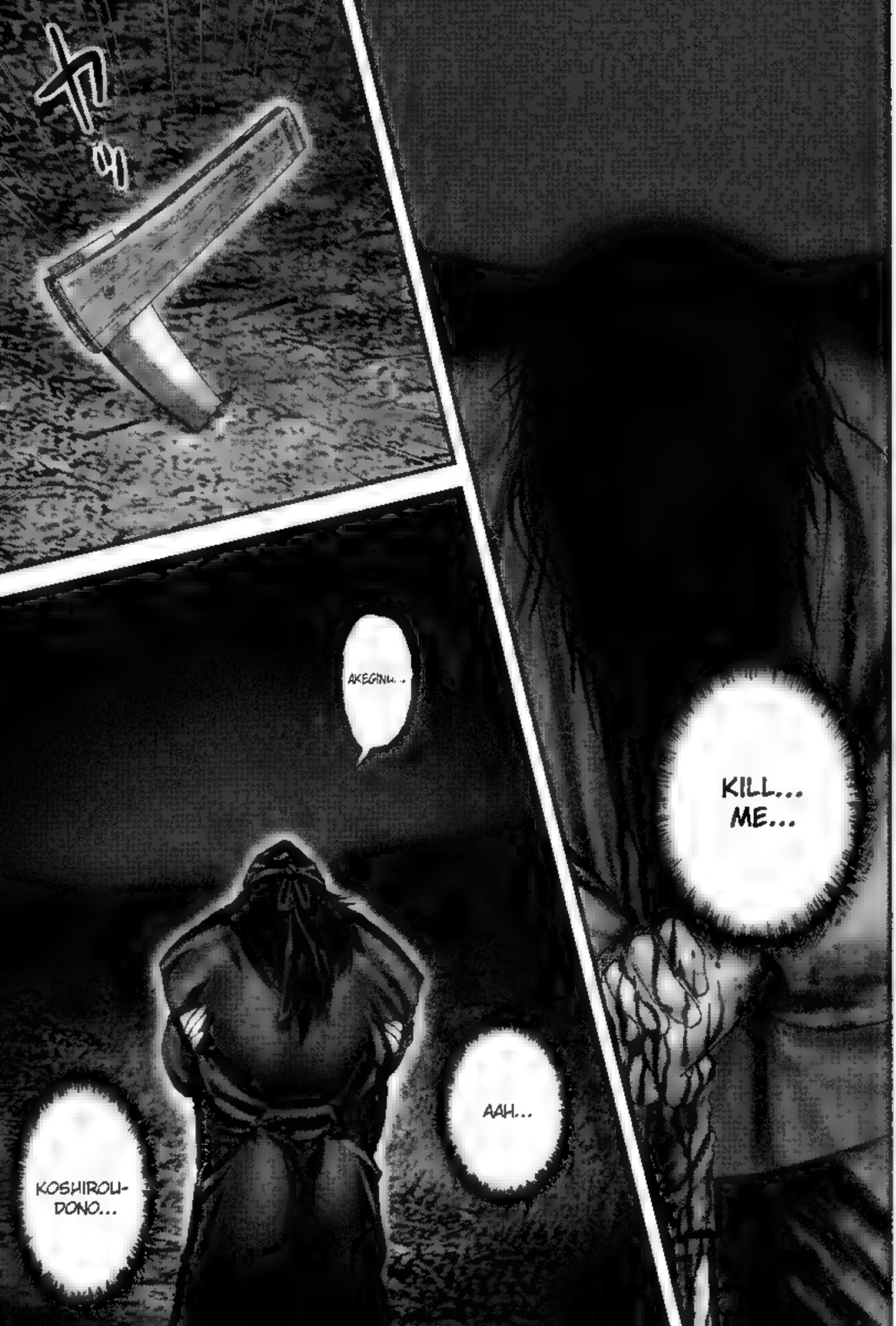
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.

SO, WITH YOUR HANDS...
!?
?
A...
A...!
AKEGINU-DONO...

KILL ME.
PLEASE...

A...

KILL...
KILL...


KILL...
ME...
AKEGINU...
AAH...
KOSHIROU-
DONO...

I LIKE YOU KOSHIROU-DONO
IF WE GO TO SUNPU, WHAT COULD
KOSHIROU-DONO NOW...

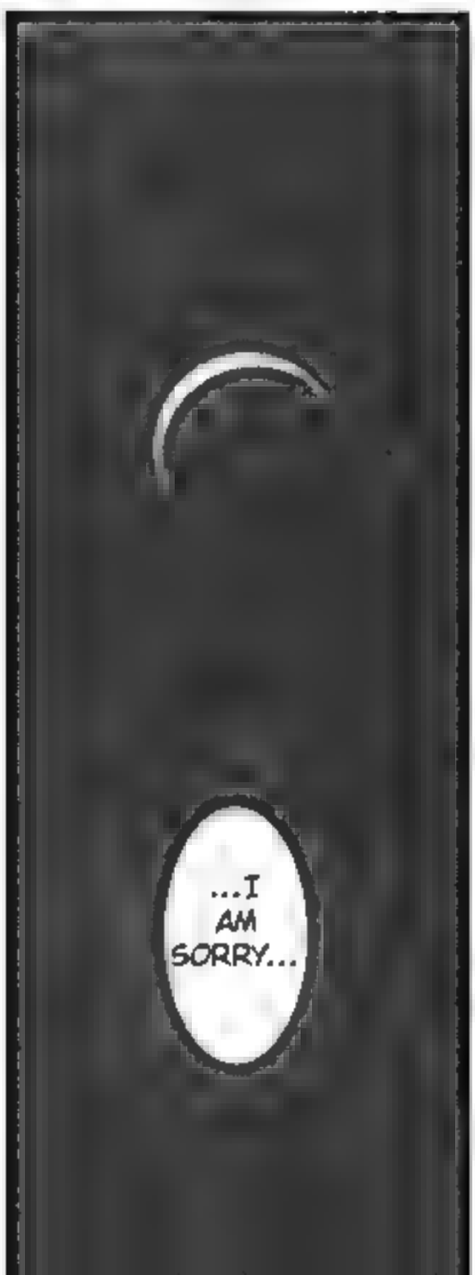
INSTEAD, THE TWO OF US...

KOSHIROU...
TOGETHER...

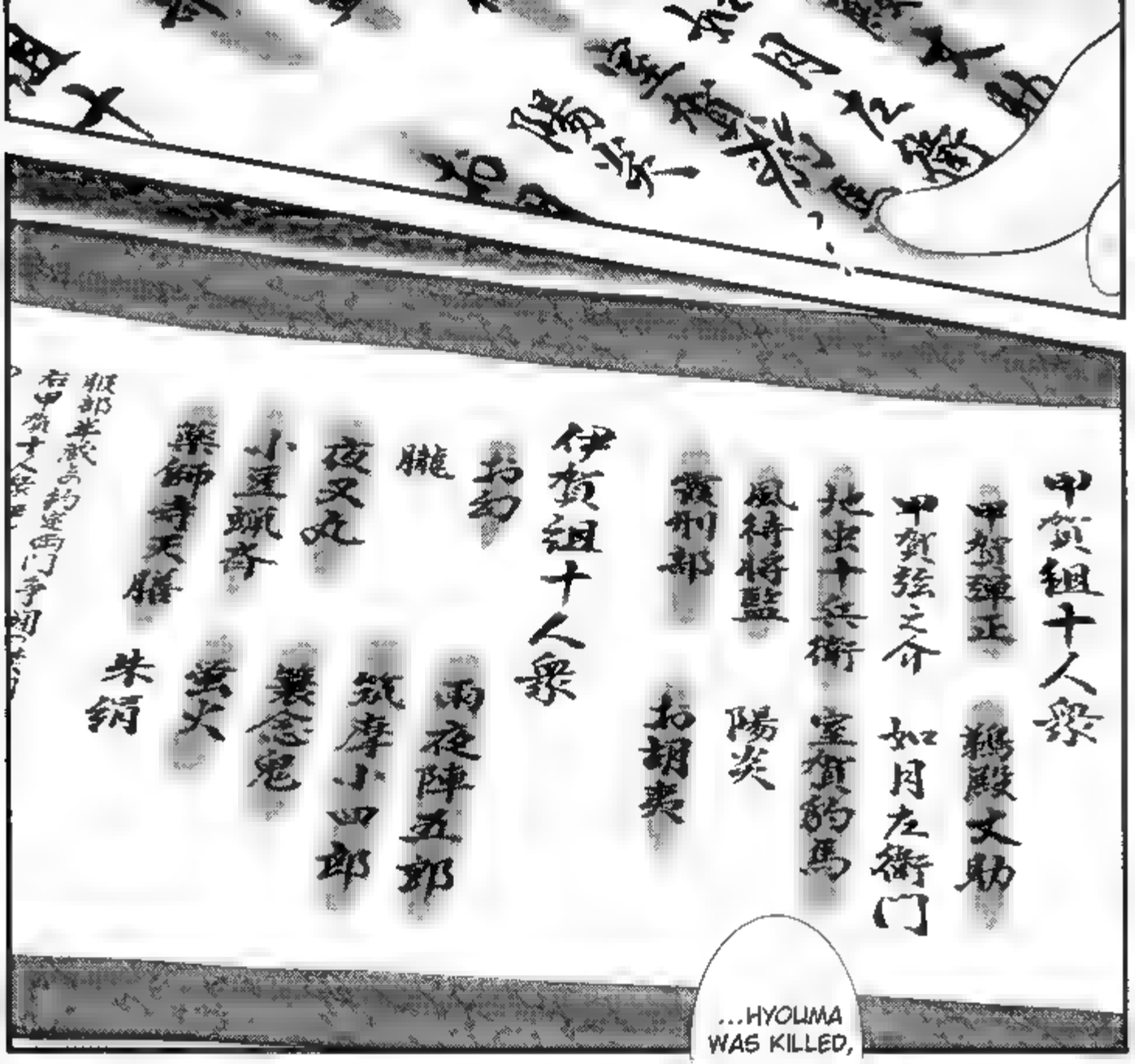
WOMEN ARE FEARSOME THINGS, INDEED
MY, MY.

WELL DONE KAGEROU
BUT THAT BASTARD, KOSHIROU...

...IF WE HAD KNOWN HE WOULD KILL HYOUMA...
ああ。


...I AM SORRY...

..HYOUMA..


甲賀組十人衆
甲賀弾正 鵜殿文助
甲賀弦之介 如月左衛門
地虫十兵衛 室賀豹馬
風待将監 陽炎
霧刑部 お胡夷
伊賀組十人衆
お幻
朧
夜叉丸
小豆蝋斎
薬師寺天膳 朱絹
雨夜陣五郎
筑摩小四郎
襲念鬼
蛍火

...HYOUMA WAS KILLED,
AND WE'VE KILLED TENZEN AND KOSHIROU

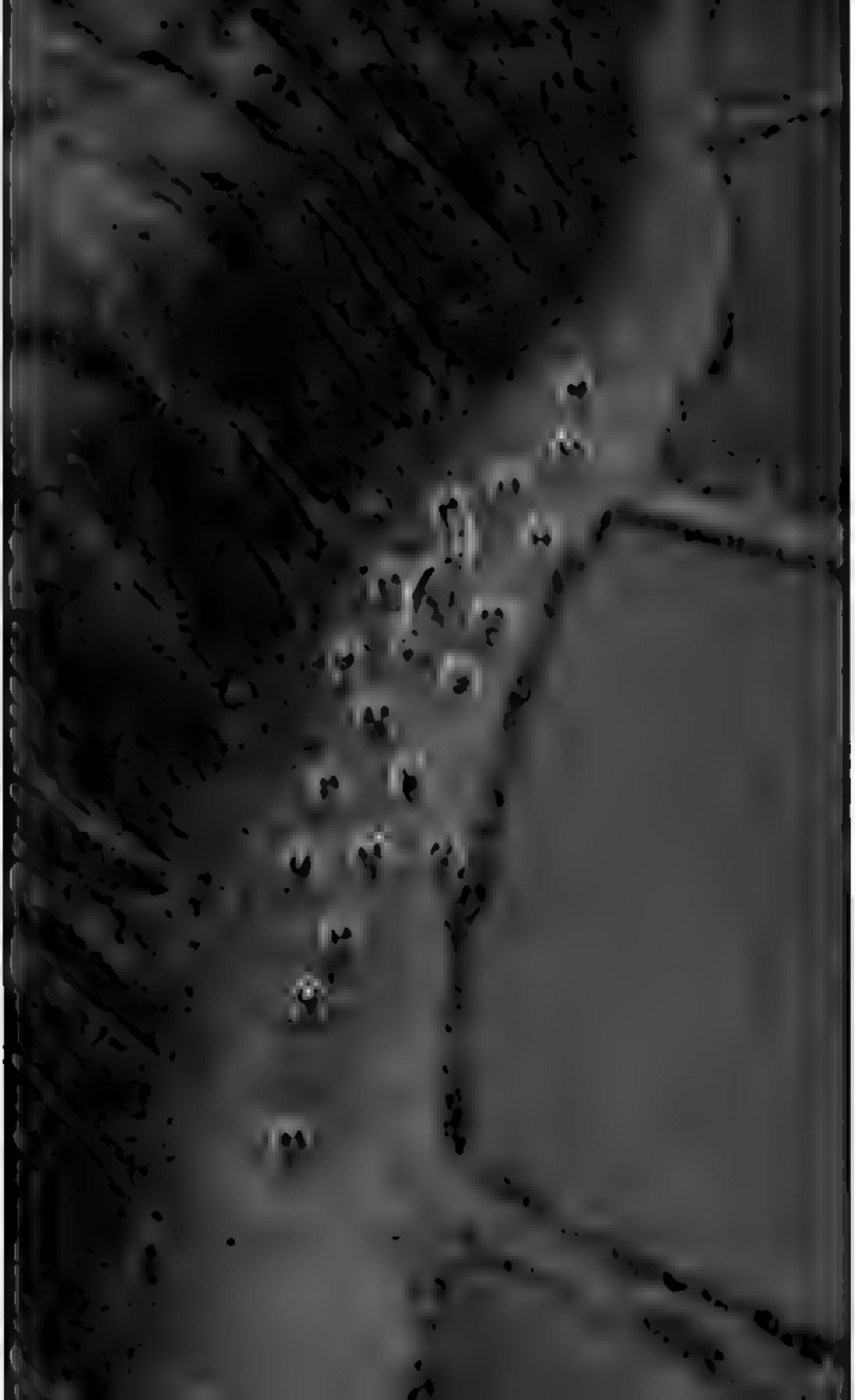
INCLUDING OUR ENEMIES,
THERE'S ONLY FIVE PEOPLE LEFT...

KOSHIROU TOLD US THAT OBORO IS STAYING AT THE INN IN CHIRIYUU
お幻
朧
夜叉丸

KAGEROU, WHAT HAPPENED TO OBORO'S HAWK?

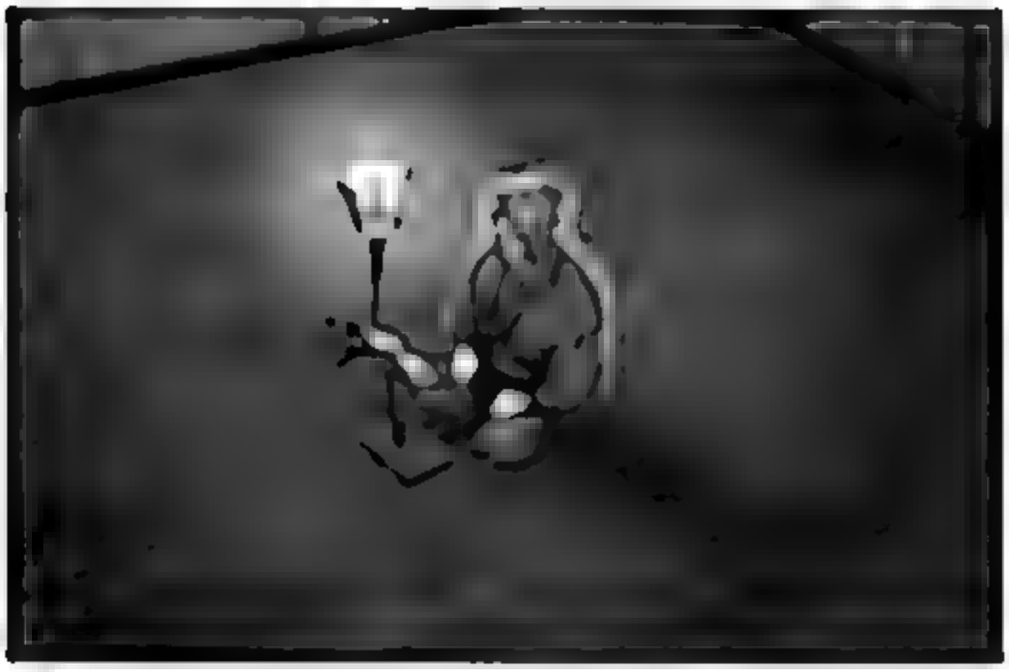
I THINK
IT WAS FEELING A BIT THREATENED AND DURING THE CONFUSION,
IT FLEW AWAY

IT MUST HAVE FLOWN BACK TO THE INN WHERE ODORO IS STAYING...MAY?



.....
Known later as Lady Kasugano
Noble Mother of Tokugawa Takechiyo:
Ofuku

Estate of
Hattori
Hanzou



OFUKU-SAMA HAS
SECRETLY LEFT SUNPU FOR ISE.
UNDER THE PREMISE OF VISITING THE SHRINE

SHOULD I FOLLOW HER?

NO
LET HER GO
YES.

.....

TAKECHIYO -SAMA'S NURSING MOTHER, OFUKU...
THAT TROUBLESOME WOMAN IS GETTING INVOLVED.

CAW CAW

KO...
KOSHIROU-
DONO!
AAAH!

KOSHIROU-
DONO!
KOSHIROU-
DONO!

JUST AS I EXPECTED...

AAA
AAA

SAEMON-DONO
IN YOUR CURRENT FORM, YOU CAN APPROACH THEM EASILY
AND KILL THEM WITH ONE SLASH OF YOUR SWORD...
KAGEROU
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT OBORO'S ILLUSION-BREAKING EYES?

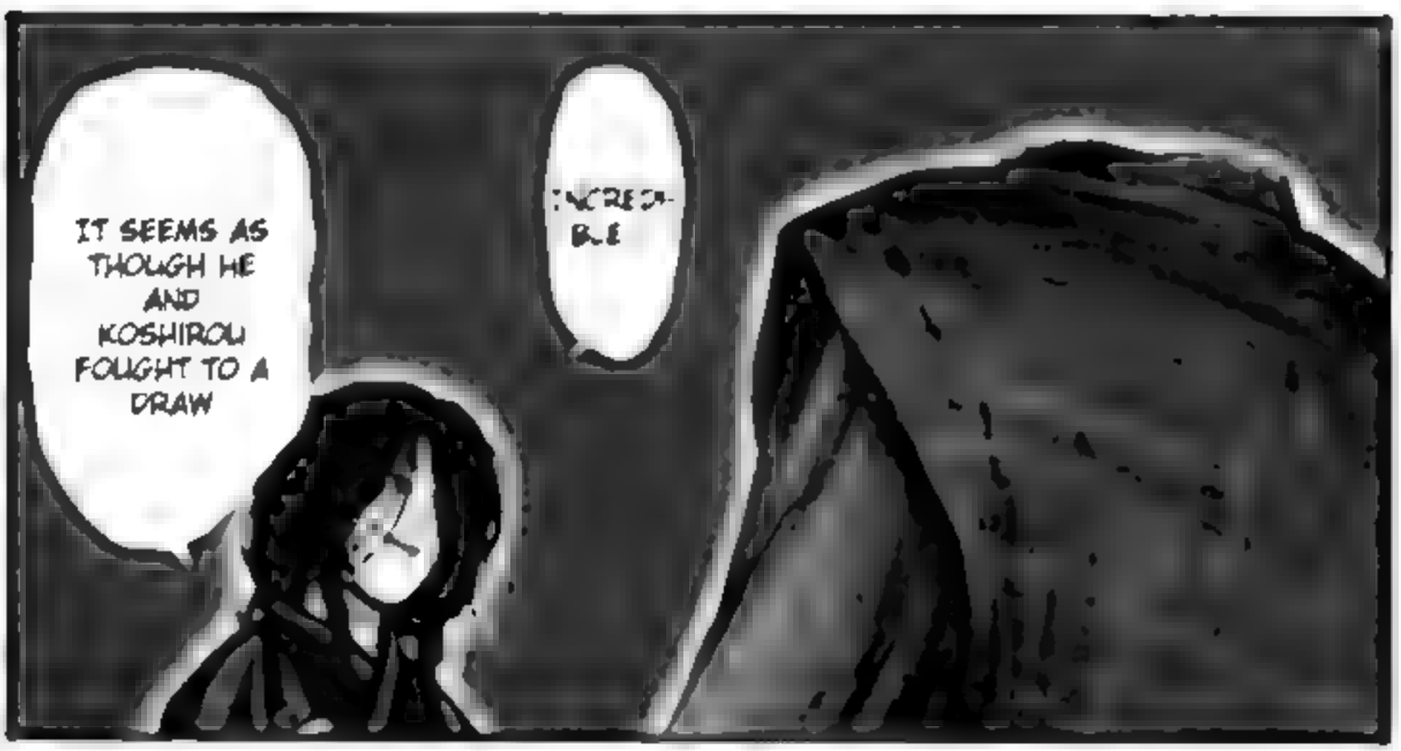
KOSHIROU-DONO..
KOSHIROU-DONO.

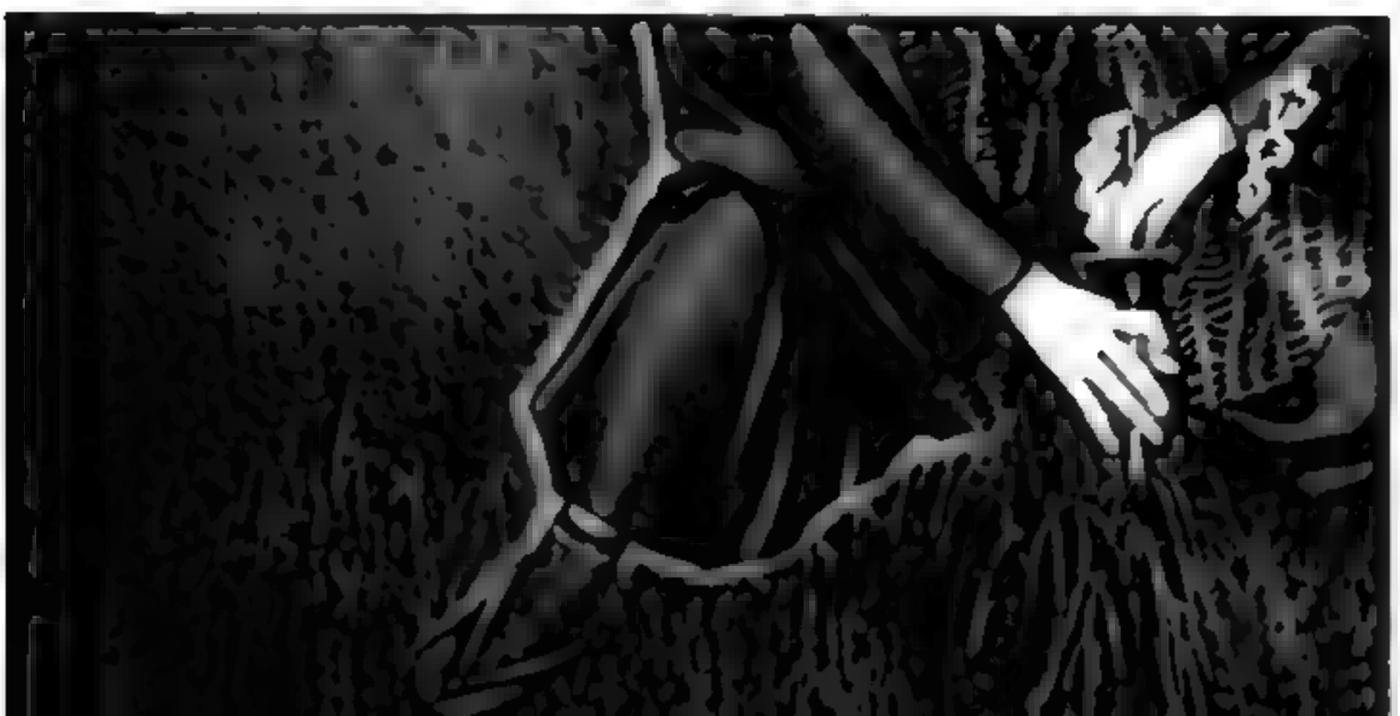
THERE ISN'T ANY WOUND .
EVEN THOUGH THERE AREN'T ANY WOUNDS... ON HIS BODY...

YOU...
IT WAS YOU WHO DID THIS TO KOSHIROU-DONO

AKEGINU...
IS THERE SOMEONE THERE?

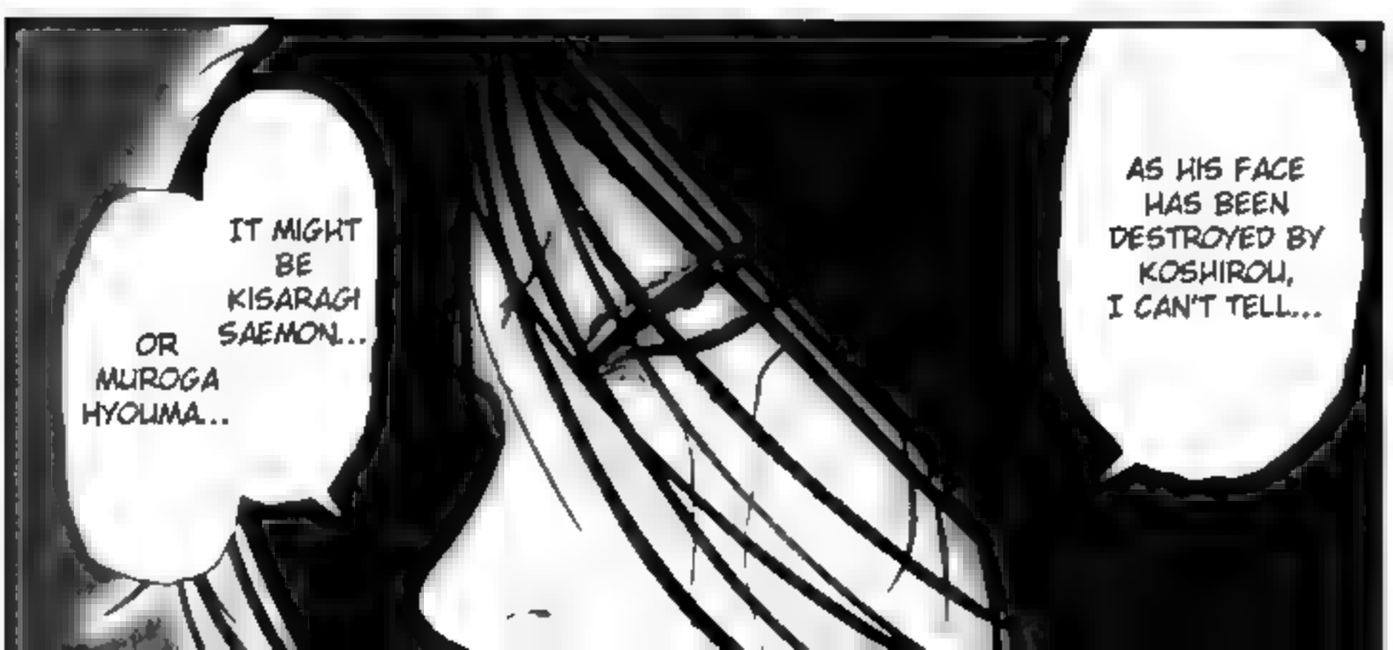
BUT?
HE IS DEAD BUT IS STILL STANDING
THERE IS ONLY ONE FROM KOUGA


IT SEEMS AS THOUGH HE AND KOSHIROU FOUGHT TO A DRAW
INCREDI-BLE



WH...WHO IS... HE, AKEGINU?

FORGIVE ME HYOUMA,
FOR USING YOUR CORPSE AS A LURE...


AS HIS FACE HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY KOSHIROU, I CAN'T TELL...
IT MIGHT BE KISARAGI SAEMON... OR MUROGA HYOUMA..

GE... GENNOSUKE-SAMA?!
OR KOUGA GENNOSUKE...
NO...IT SEEMS... HIS HAIR WASN'T KNOTTED AT THE BACK
IT SEEMS LIKE HE IS...
THE ONE THEY CALL MUROGA HYOUMA

!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT DECEASED.!

◆第二十四段 終◆

STOP!
AKEGINU!
!?

3 VERSUS 3
GENESIS
#GENESIS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

Scanned by : manxxx
Translated by: Kyouou
Edited by : XpLo
QC : Winged Dancer
Special Thanks : miyagice

OH...
I HAVE ALREADY HUMILIATED HIM ENOUGH...
I... WHEN TENZEN PARADED KASUMI GYOBU'S BODY
IN PUBLIC AT SAGAI BRIDGE, I WAS...
DISGUST!

HE WAS A MAN WHO WAS STILL ABLE TO FOUGHT KOSHIROU TO A DRAW...
KOSHIROU AS WELL?
YOU STILL THINK LIKE THAT...

HEHEHE...

TENZEN...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
WHERE IS TENZEN...

IN A BATTLE OF NINJAS, IT IS NEEDLESS TO BE MERCIFUL
OBORO-SAMA, WHAT WOULD TENZEN-DONO SAY IF HE HEARD WHAT YOU JUST SAID

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE IS NEARBY IN THIS AREA
.....

.....
OR PERHAPS...
HE IS PROBABLY PURSUING THE REMAINING THREE MEMBERS OF THE KOUGA,

...WHAT IF,
THEY, TOO KILLED EACH OTHER?

NEVER!
THAT TENZEN-SAMA?
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE!

EH.?

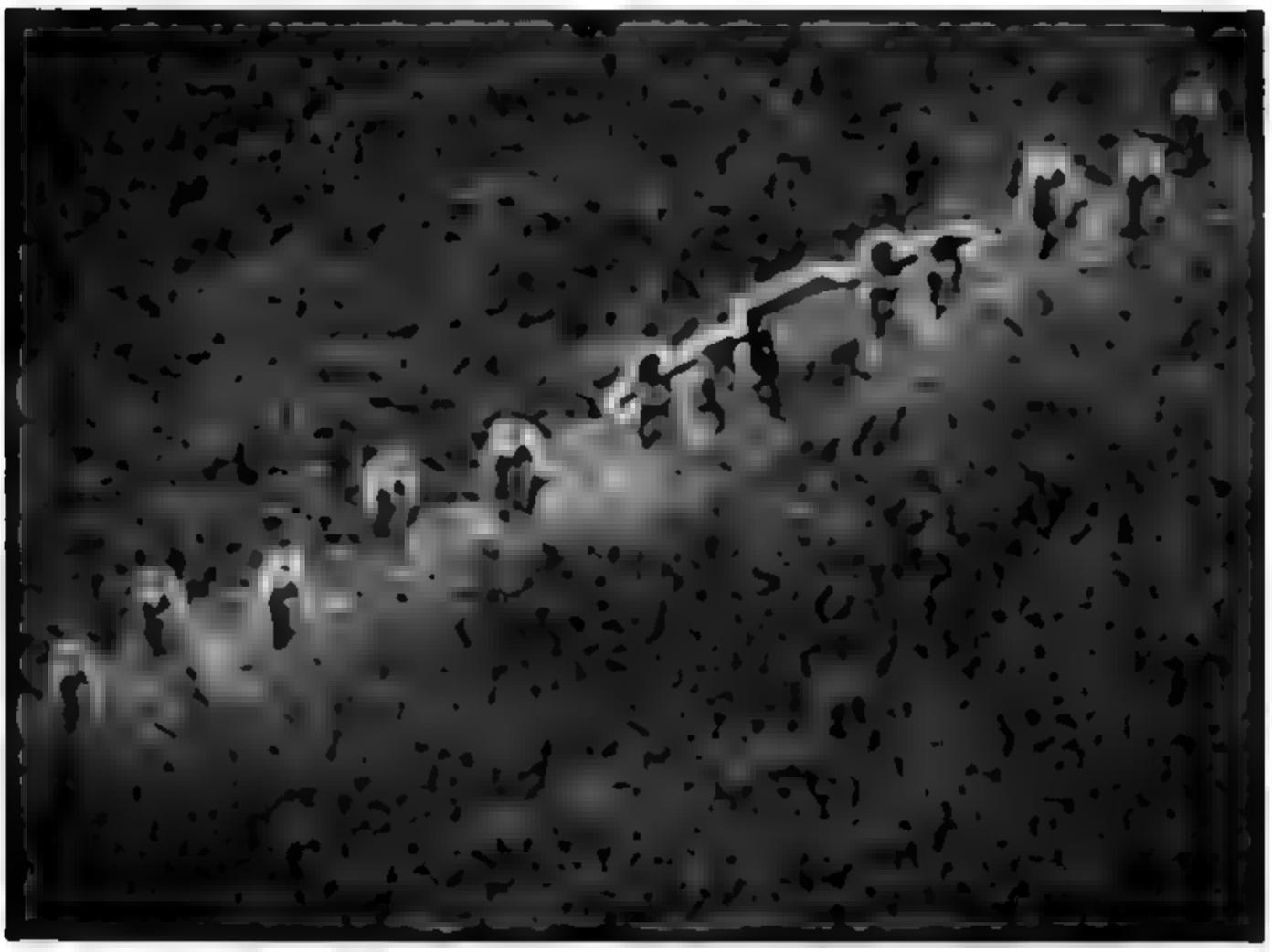
.....
SAEMON-DONO,
ARE YOU SURE TENZEN IS INDEED DEAD?
POSITIVE!
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HIS BREATHING STOPPED!
!?
THOSE TWO
WHAT NONSENSE ARE THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT!

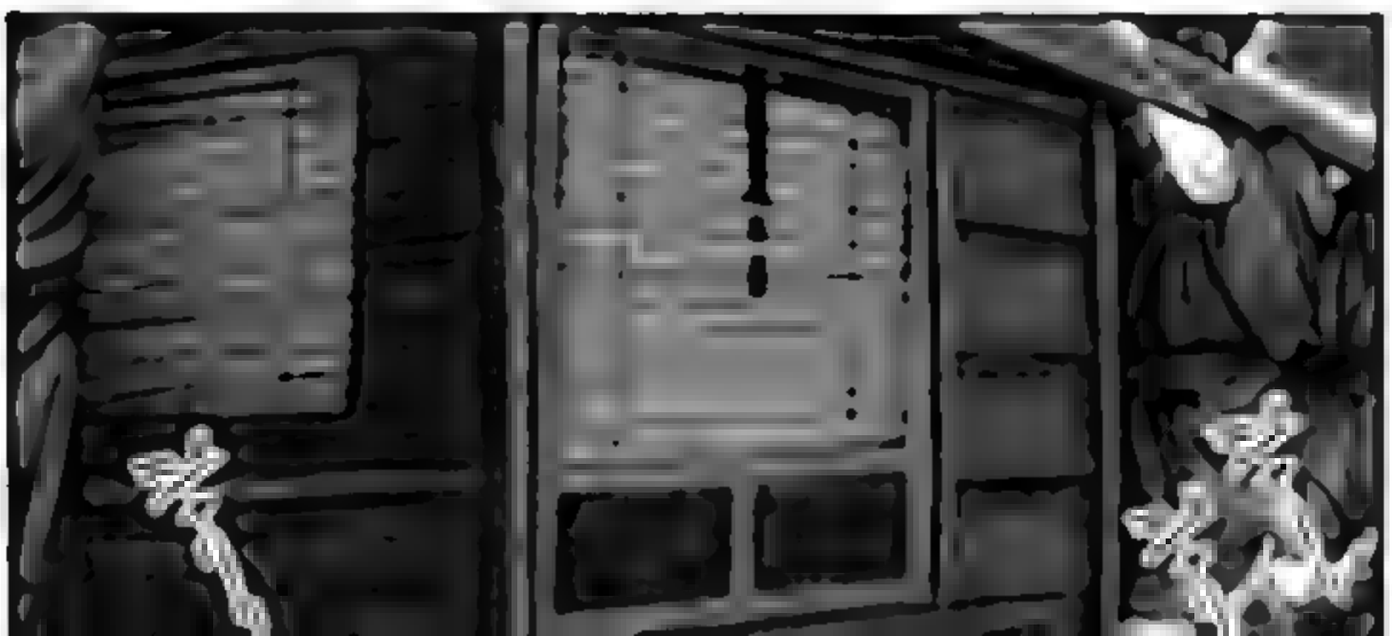
ALL RIGHT... FIRST THEN, SHALL WE WILL CAPTURE THOSE TWO ALIVE
.....

AND AFTER WE SHOW THEM TENZEN'S CORPSE... WE'LL KILL THEM OFF!

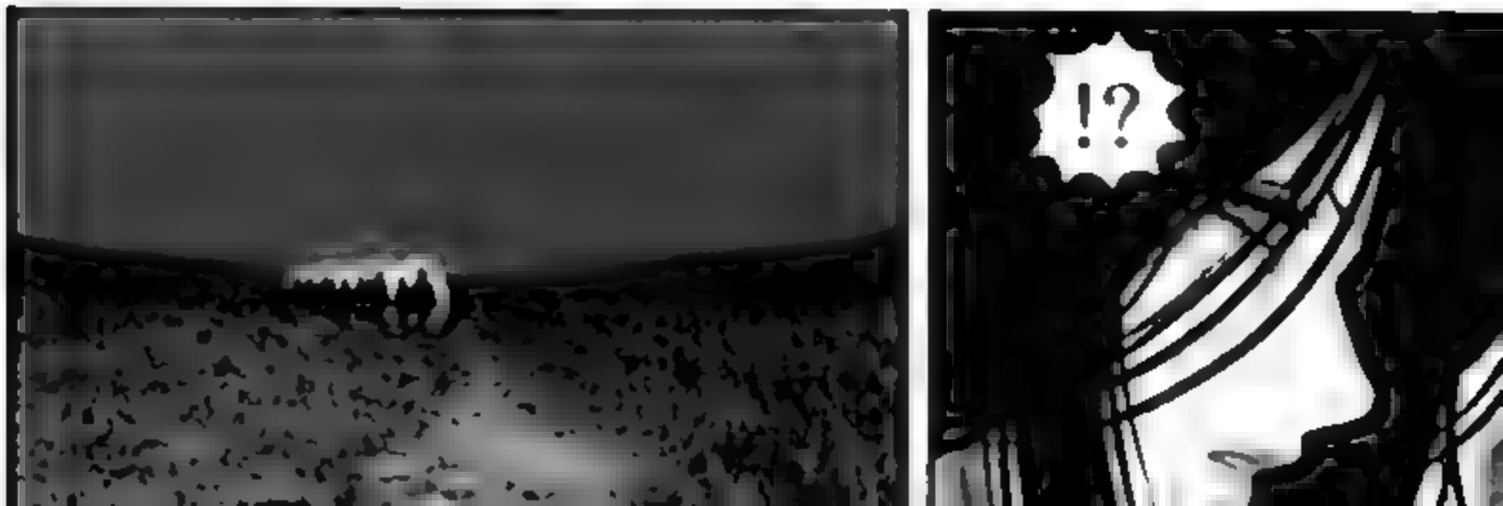
.....

!?
SAEMON, WAIT
GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
ARE YOU PLANNING TO TELL ME NOT TO KILL OBORO?!
AT THIS POINT,
THERE ARE PEOPLE COMING FROM THE EAST,
IT'S SUSPICIOUSLY LARGE, FOR A PROCESSION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, SAEMON

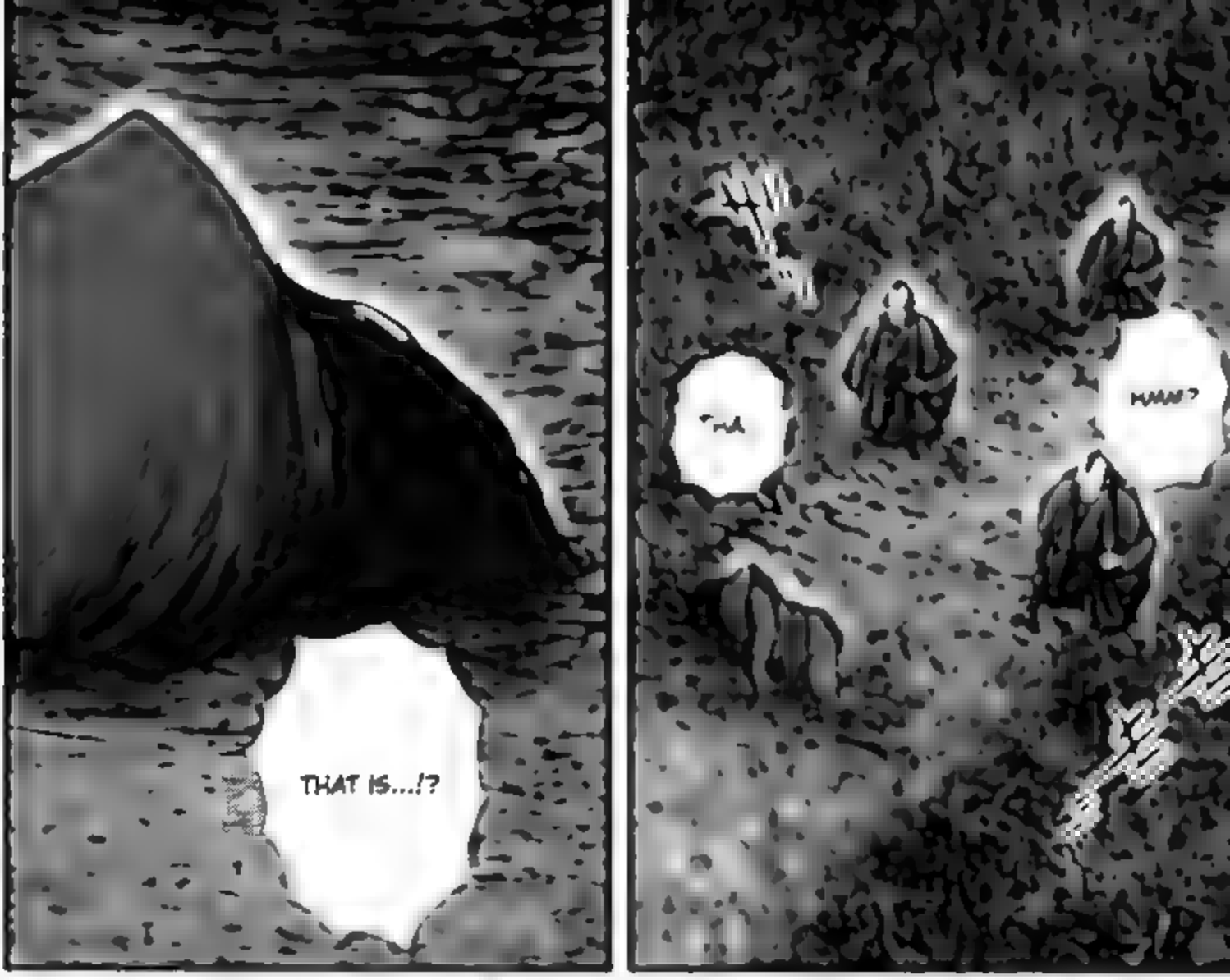




PLEASE . REST IN PEACE .


!?

HEY! YOU PEOPLE OVER THERE!
TOGETHER YOUR GENES!


THAT IS...!?
HMM?

EVERYONE, BE ON GUARD!
BANDITS!

AND WE ARE IN A HURRY TO GET TO SUNPU
WE HAVE BEEN SENT FOR BY THE GREAT GENERAL IEYASU-SAMA..

IDENTIFY YOUR-SELVES AS WELL!
AND AS FOR ALL OF YOU

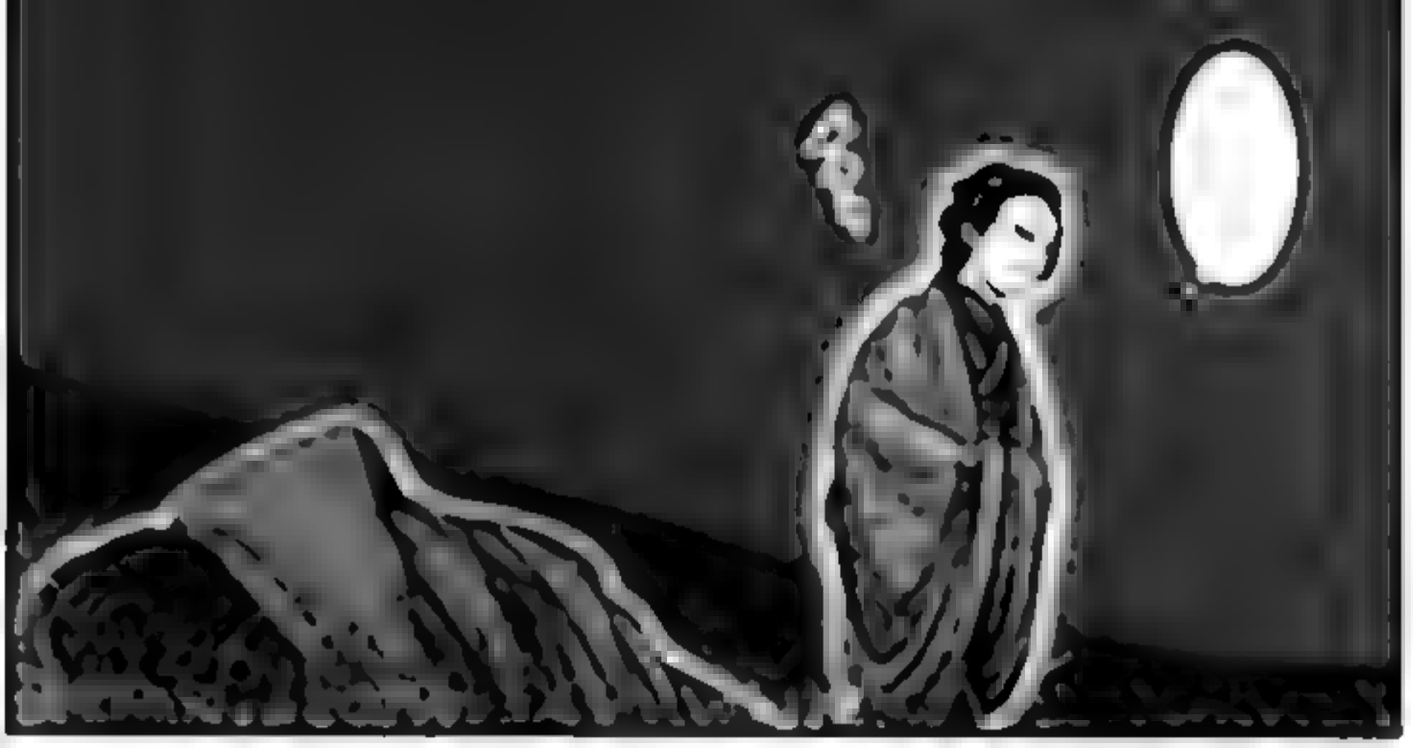
BY THE GENERAL?
WH... WHAT?

TWO WOMEN, ALONE...
WHAT EXACTLY IS THE REASON THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO GO TO SUNPU?
...AND WHERE ARE YOU PEOPLE FROM, AT ANY RATE?

WE ARE FROM THE AREA OF IGA.. THE PEOPLE OF TSUBAGAKURE

WHAT!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY NOW?!

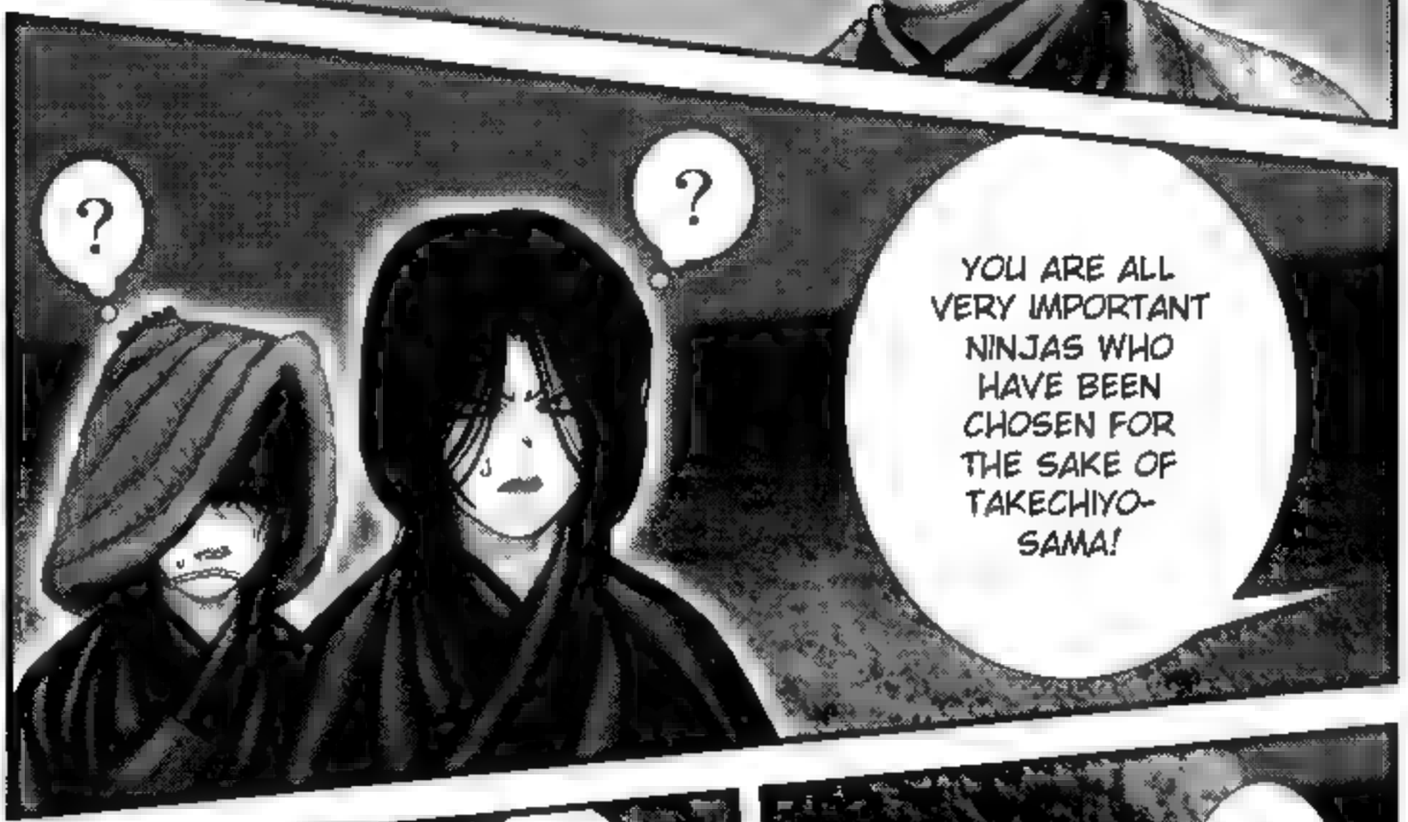
IGA...
DID YOU JUST SAY?



WOULD IT BE, THAT YOU
ARE THE PEOPLE OF IGA, WHO AFTER THE ABSOLVING OF THE TREATY WITH HATTORI HANZOU,
ARE BATTLING THE PEOPLE FROM KOUGA?
AND YOU ARE?
.....
THE NURSING MOTHER OF TAKECHIYO-SAMA, THE SUCCESSOR OF THE SHOGUN'S FAMILY,
OFUKU

TAKCHIYO-SAMA'S NURSING MOTHER
THE SHOGUN'S SUCCESSOR...
THAT... COULD THAT... BE RELATED TO WHY WE KOUGA AND THE IGA ARE FIGHTING?
.....
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT??
!?
YOUR MUST BE CALLED... OBORO AND... AKEGINU, AM I RIGHT?
.....

OOH!
SO IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT!
OGEN OF IGA PROUDLY WROTE DOWN YOUR NAMES AS ONE OF THE 10 NINJAS...
I WAS TOLD THIS BY THE SHOGUN


?
?
YOU ARE ALL VERY IMPORTANT NINJAS WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE SAKE OF TAKECHIYO-SAMA!

FOR THE SAKE OF...
TAKECHIYO-SAMA...? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?

MUROGA HYOUMA, FROM KOUGA MANJI VALLEY
OOH
KOUGA GENNO-SUKE,
I BELIEVE THERE ARE THREE OF THEM LEFT...
KAGEROU,
KISARAGI SAEMON

OOH
THEN WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
THEY MIGHT HAVE GONE AHEAD, TO SUNPU
OR ELSE THEY MIGHT BE HIDING IN THESE PLAINS, NEARBY
WHAT?!
EVERYONE, BE ON GUARD!
YES!
YES!
. . .

ARE ALL DEAD...
THEY...
BY THE WAY,
IGA WOMAN,
WERE ARE THE REST OF YOUR COMRADES FROM IGA?
.....
.....

◆第二十五段 終◆

EVERYONE
IS DEAD...
HOW... HOW CAN THAT BE?
IT HAS ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN IGA AND KOUGA HAS BEEN ABSOLVED...
AND YET...

THREE VERSUS THREE, PART 2

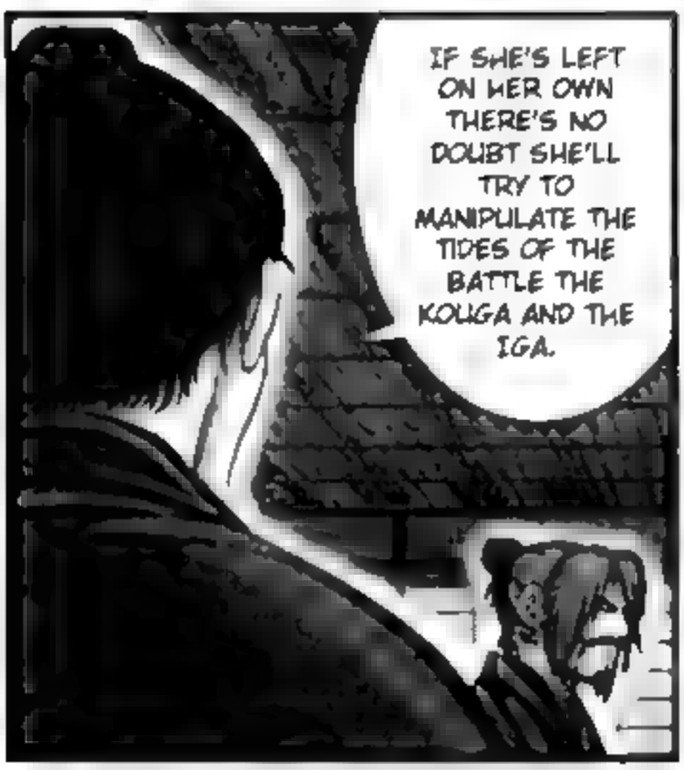
SFX: CREEK
GIII-!

AAAAH...
AAH...
AAH...

AAAAH...
AA... AAH...
...EXCUSE ME, YOU HAD JUST SAID THAT...
FOR TAKECHIYO-SAMA, WE ARE IMPORTANT NINJAS...
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU MEAN...
THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN FIGHTING WITH THE KOUGA WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE REASON FOR IT?

I'LL TELL YOU!
JUST HOW
IS THE MISSION THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH

HATTORI HANZOU SANZU'S RESIDENCE
THE SITUATION WITH OFUKU...


IF SHE'S LEFT ON HER OWN THERE'S NO DOUBT SHE'LL TRY TO MANIPULATE THE TIDES OF THE BATTLE THE KOUGA AND THE IGA.

IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT TO JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THAT, FATHER?

IF I DECIDED TO ALLOW OFUKU TO DO AS SHE PLEASES IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW SHE'LL HELP TO CONTAIN THOSE VERY TIDES.
...IT MIGHT BE THAT SHE'LL AFFECT THE COURSE OF IT ALL, BUT...

AND
WITHOUT
WARNING,

SHE GOT ON HER PALANQUIN AND ESCAPED
THEN, AS THOUGH NOTHING HAPPENED

.....

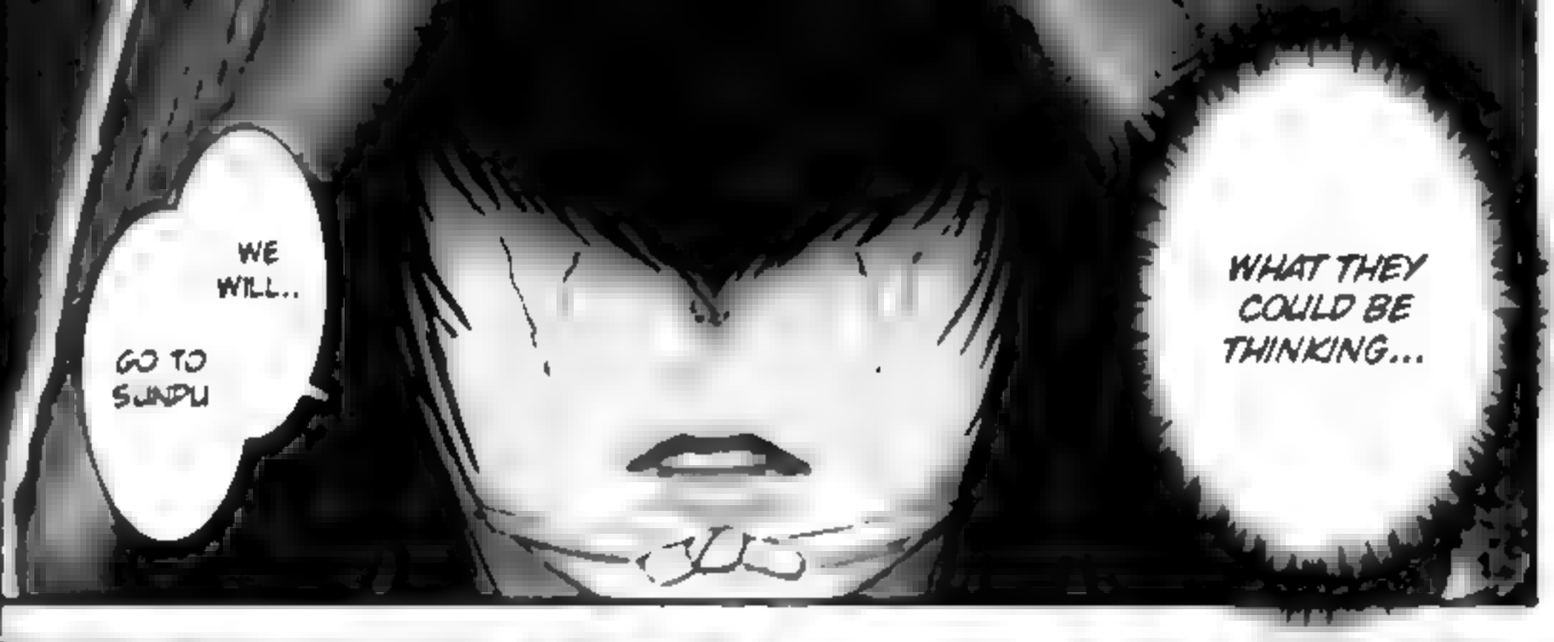
EVEN IF I WERE TO TRY AND CONTAIN HER, SHE'S AN OBSTINATE KIND OF WOMAN, WHOSE BLOOD WOULD BOIL AT THE MERE IDEA OF OPPRESSION
SHE'D FIGHT EVEN HARDER, AND MAKE THINGS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT...

LEAVING HER ALONE IS THE BEST STRATEGY
LET HER PLAY WITH THE TIDES.
KYOUHA-CHIROU...
AS THE FOURTH OF MY LINEAGE, I, HANZOU MASAHIRO, SWEAR THIS TO YOU
WHAT KIND OF TRICKS OFUKU MAY TRY TO
WHAT CAN AN OUTSIDER DO TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF A WAR BETWEEN NINJA?

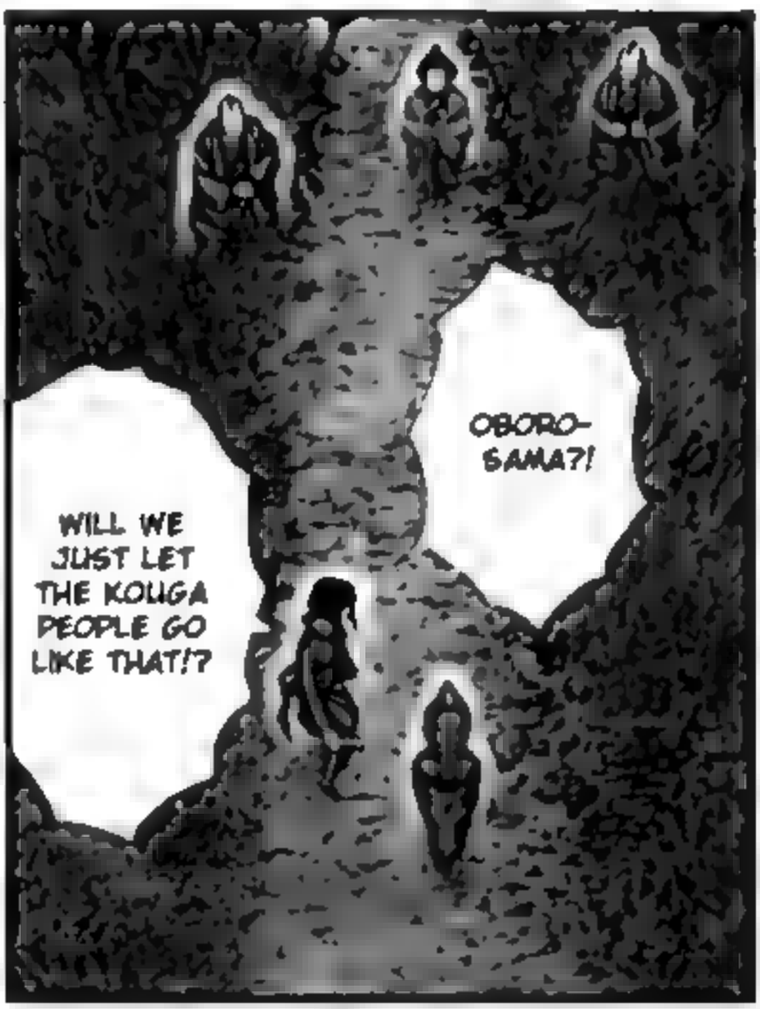
SO FOR THE TIME BEING...
LET'S TRUST OFUKU TO HANDLE HERSELF

OBORO,
AKEGINU,
WON'T YOU COME WITH ME TOGETHER TO SUNPU?
NO,
BY ALL MEANS, YOU MUST TRAVEL WITH ME!
THESE TWO...
FOR THE SAKE OF TAKECHIYO-SAMA
I CANNOT LET THEM DIE!

AND I DO NOT EVEN KNOW THE REASON WE ARE FIGHTING
..HOWEVER, I DO NOT LIKE TO FIGHT..
TO ASK THE SHOGUN OR WHATEVER-DONO
ABOUT WHAT THEY SHOULD BE THINKING..
THEREFORE I WILL GO TO SUMPU AT ONCE


WE WILL..
GO TO SUNPU
WHAT THEY COULD BE THINKING...

NO!
WE WILL NOT LET THE KOUGA PEOPLE GO JUST LIKE THAT!


OBORO-SAMA?!
WILL WE JUST LET THE KOUGA PEOPLE GO LIKE THAT!?

AND WE WILL NOT LET YOU DIE EITHER

PERHAPS IT'D BE BEST TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAT
...THAT'S TRUE, RIGHT NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE SURE OBORO-SAMA REACHES SUNPU SAFELY...

TAKE REVENGE FOR KOSHIROU-DONO'
I MUST .
AND FOR MYSELF, ...

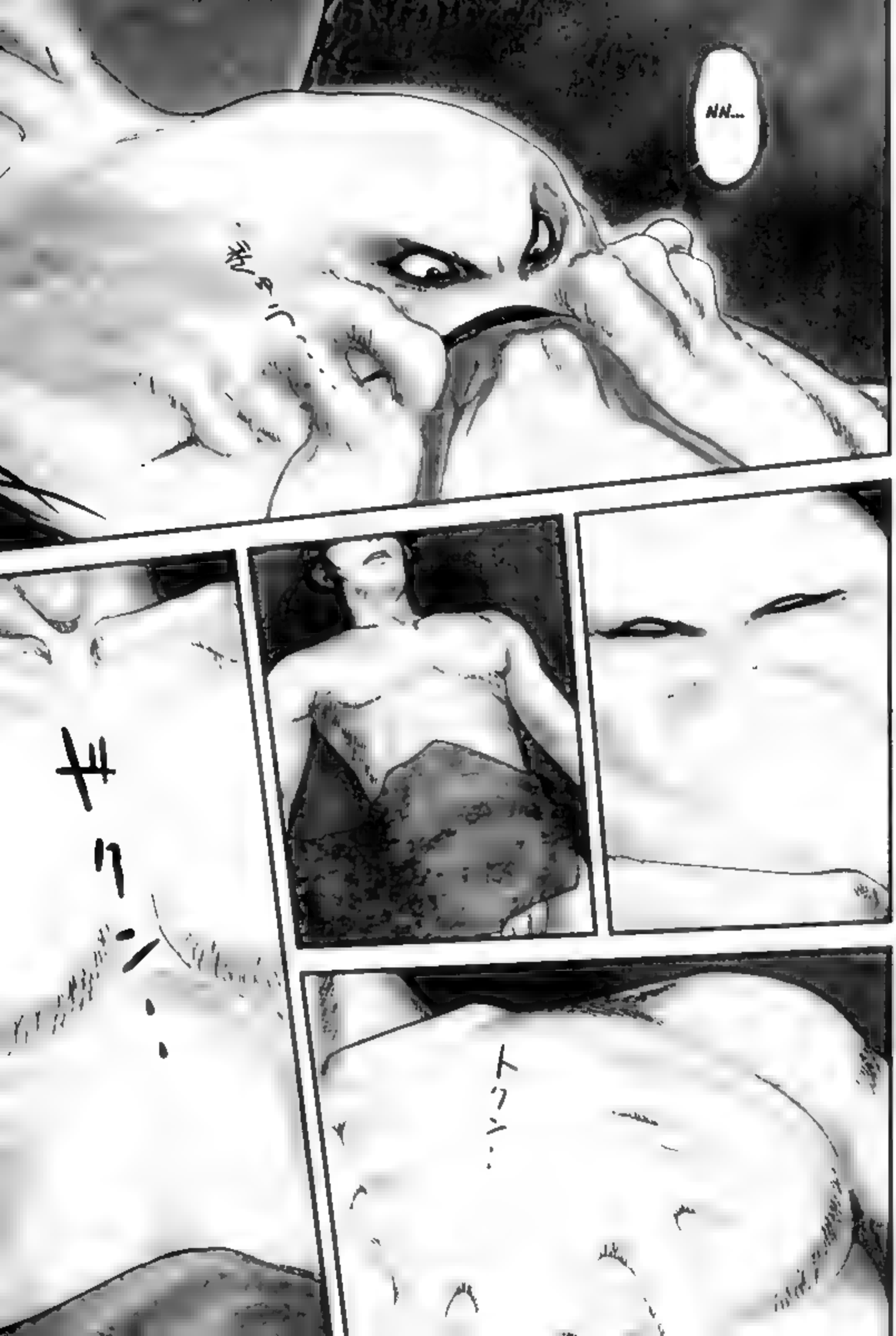
...WHEN WE GET TO SUNPU,
TO MEET WITH THE SHOGUN,
LIFE...
I MUST REINSTATE THE PEACE TREATY

SO THIS NINJA WAR IS TO DECIDE THE SUCCESSOR OF THE TOKUGAWA FAMILY...

I SEE...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
...

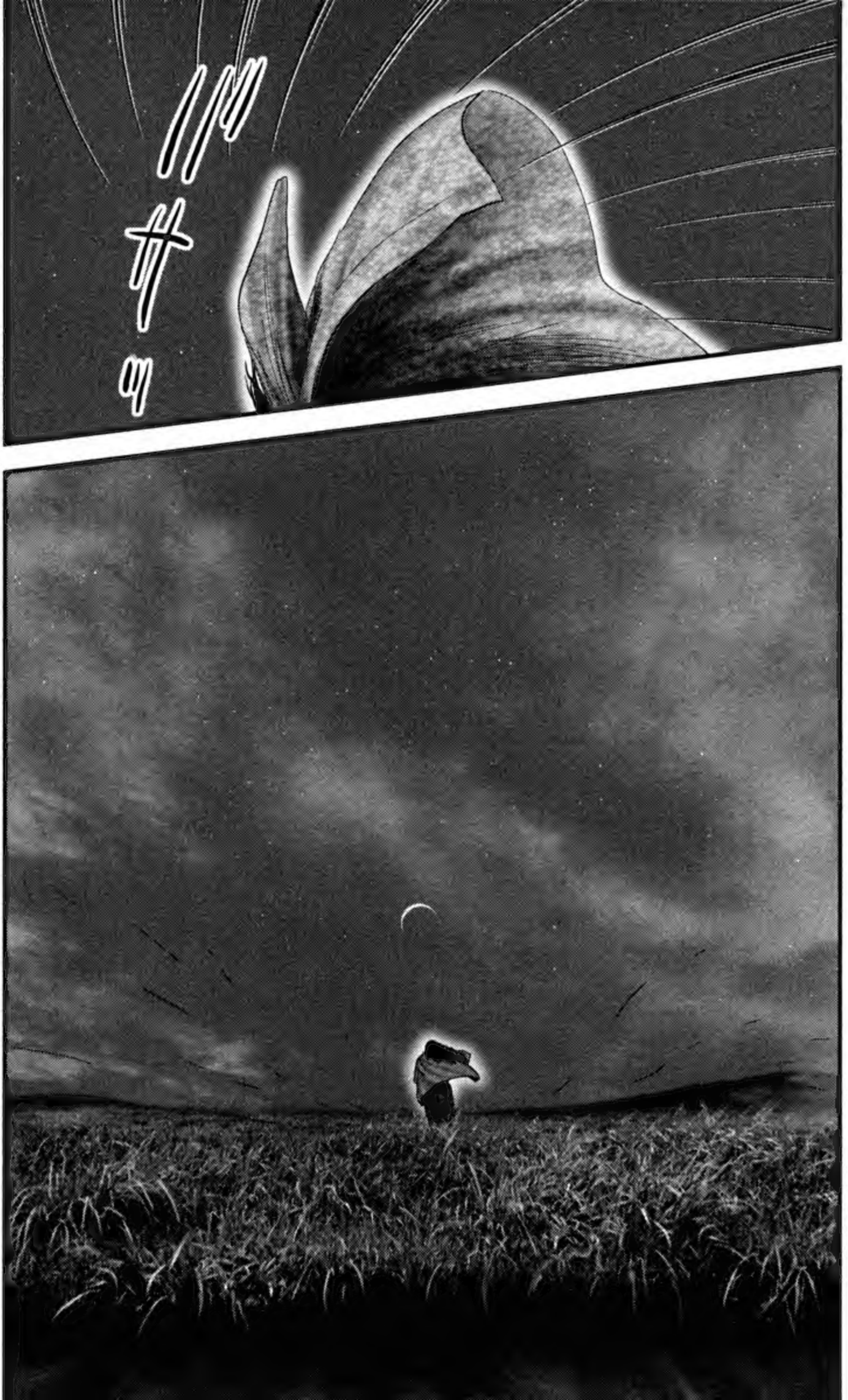
NNNG
NNNGH...
NNN...
A...
NNN...

NN...
AH...
AH...
NG...


NN...

GH!!
UH!
HG...
SFX: DO-KUN
NN...
NN...

……
ニヤ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CONTINUES IN THE FIFTH VOLUME